



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 6105.0 - Australian Labour Market Statistics, Jan 2009

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## Summary

### Main Features

#### NOTES

#### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

##### ISSUE (QUARTER)

April 2009  
July 2009  
October 2009

##### Release Date

2 April 2009  
3 July 2009  
2 October 2009

#### DATA CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUE

The statistics shown are the latest available at 11 December 2008. Data sources for the tables in this publication are listed in Appendix 1.

#### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The families table (Table 1.7) has been changed, following the introduction of improved estimates of families from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in October 2008. For more information on the improved estimates of families, see [Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey](#) (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002).

#### ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

The spreadsheets and data cubes referenced in this publication are available free of charge on the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Access to all ABS products & statistics - By Catalogue Number - 6. Labour Statistics and Prices].

#### INQUIRIES

For information about other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

## Labour statistics news

### LABOUR STATISTICS NEWS

#### LABOUR THEME PAGE

The ABS Labour Theme Page, available on the ABS website, provides a guide to the range of ABS statistics on the labour market, as well as links to the latest data released. To find the Theme Page, go to <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Themes - People - Labour].

#### RELEASE OF SEARS

The 2007 Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation (SEARS) provides a range of information on employment arrangements; working patterns; work and caring; retirement and retirement intentions; and superannuation. Results from the survey were released in November 2008 in the publication [Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6361.0) and in a number of datacubes: [Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation; State Tables, Apr to Jul 2007](#) (cat. no. 6361.0.55.003) and [Datacubes: Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia, April to July 2007](#) (cat. no. 6361.0.55.004).

An expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) (cat. no. 6361.0.55.001) was also released and is accessible through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). The expanded CURF allows authorised users to process the survey data from their desktop via a secure internet link. For more information about the CURF see [User Guide: Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia, April to July 2007](#) (cat. no. 6361.0.55.002). For information about accessing CURF microdata, see the CURF User Tool Kit at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Services - CURFs - CURF Microdata].

In early 2010, the **Australian Journal of Labour Economics** (AJLE) will publish a thematic issue dedicated to articles using the expanded CURF from SEARS 2007. The analysis should be innovative and will be peer reviewed. The final selection of articles lies with the editors of the AJLE. The deadline for submission of articles is 31 August 2009. Articles should be submitted to Boyd.Hunter@anu.edu.au and Nicholas.Biddle@anu.edu.au.

## LABOUR STATISTICS NEWSLETTER

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is currently developing a labour statistics newsletter which is designed to provide users with insight into the ABS labour market program and updates on statistical developments. **Labour Statistics News** (cat. no. 6106.0) will be released twice-yearly, with the first issue expected to be released on 24 February 2009. Each issue will feature current projects, recent highlights, articles and analysis, contact details, and other related information. To subscribe to the newsletter please email "subscribe" to janelle.mcfarlane@abs.gov.au, or you may access the newsletter directly at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>.

## SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS ON LABOUR TOPICS

The Monthly Population Survey comprises the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and a range of supplementary surveys, which provide detailed information on a range of topics. Results from surveys on labour-related topics recently released include: **Labour Mobility, Australia, Feb 2008** (cat. no. 6209.0) and **Job Search Experience, Australia, Jul 2008** (cat. no. 6222.0).

## RELEASE OF LABOUR MOBILITY CURF

The 2008 Basic and Expanded Labour Mobility CURFs (cat. no. 6202.0.30.004) were released in November 2008. The Basic CURF is available on CD-ROM. The expanded CURF is available via RADL only. Access through the RADL enables the ABS to make more detailed microdata available than on CD-ROM, while still maintaining the confidentiality of ABS data providers. For more information about the Labour Mobility CURF see **Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record Files, Technical Manual, Feb 2008** (cat. no. 6202.0.30.005). For more information about accessing CURF microdata, see the CURF User Tool Kit at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Services - CURFs - CURF Microdata].

## SURVEY OF EMPLOYEE EARNINGS AND HOURS CURF

The ABS Labour Market Statistics section is currently developing a CURF from the May 2006 Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours (EEH). This will be the first CURF produced from the EEH survey. Subject to meeting ABS confidentiality requirements, and subject to receiving approval of the Australian Statistician, it is expected that the CURF will be released in March 2009.

## FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO LFS ESTIMATES

### REVISION OF POPULATION BENCHMARKS

From the February 2009 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0), LFS estimates will be compiled using population benchmarks based on results from the 2006 Census. Additionally, for the period June 2001 to January 2009, LFS estimates will be revised based on the 2006 population benchmarks. The revised estimates will also be available with the release of the February 2009 issue of the publication **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) on 12 March 2009.

## REVISION OF LABOUR FORCE SURVEY STATISTICAL REGIONS

LFS Statistical Region boundaries are revised at each sample redesign to align with the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)** (cat. no. 1216.0). From the February 2009 issues of **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003), regional estimates will be produced based on the 2006 LFS Statistical Regions. LFS estimates will be revised back to November 2007 based on the new regions. For further details, see **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design** (cat. no. 6269.0).

## CLASSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION

From the February 2009 issue of **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) the industry and occupation employment estimates will be based on new classification structures. At that point the LFS will discontinue using the old classifications and will release historical industry and occupation estimates backcast to the new classifications.

Industry will be classified to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006**. This classification system will replace the existing classification ANZSIC 1993. Industry estimates from November 1984 will be available on the new classification. For more information on the implementation of ANZSIC 2006 see **Information Paper: update on ANZSIC 2006 Implementation, 2008** (cat. no. 1295.0.55.001).

Occupation will be classified to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)**. This classification system will replace the classification **Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Second Edition**, introduced in August 1996. Occupation estimates from 1996 will be available on the new ANZSCO classification. For more information on the implementation of ANZSCO see **Information Paper: ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2005** (cat. no. 1221.0).

## TIME SERIES SPREADSHEETS

On the ABS website, the February 2009 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) will include its corresponding time series spreadsheets under the same catalogue number. These spreadsheets are currently found at **Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets** (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001), and these will cease following the January 2009 issue on 12 February 2009.

## ABS EMAIL NOTIFICATION SERVICE

By subscribing to this free service, you will be kept informed via email of the latest releases of ABS products. To subscribe, follow the link from the ABS home page <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>, provide your email address, and select your topics of interest.

### Recent and upcoming statistical releases

Release date/title of publication	Reference period	Catalogue number
December 2008		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)January 2009	1350.0
Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 - Correspondence Tables	(a)2008	1292.0.55.005
Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation: State Tables	April to July 2007	6361.0.55.003
Industrial Disputes, Australia	September quarter 2008	6321.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia	November 2008	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	November 2008	6224.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets	November 2008	6202.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	November 2008	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Quarterly	November 2008	6291.0.55.003
January 2009		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)February 2009	1350.0
Australian Labour Market Statistics	(a)January 2009	6105.0
Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia	2007-08	6248.0.55.002
Job Search Experience, Australia	July 2008	6222.0
Labour Force, Australia	December 2008	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	December 2008	6224.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets	December 2008	6202.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	December 2008	6291.0.55.001
Microdata: Multi-Purpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007-08	2007-08	4100.0.55.001
Mult-Purpose Household Survey, Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File, Technical Manual	(a)2007-08	4100.0
February 2009		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)March 2009	1350.0
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	November 2008	6302.0
Information Paper: ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations	(a)2009	1221.0
Labour Force, Australia	January 2009	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	January 2009	6224.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets	January 2009	6202.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	January 2009	6291.0.55.001
Labour Price Index, Australia	December 2008	6345.0
Labour Statistics News	(a)February 2009	6106.0
Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business, Experimental Estimates for Small Areas - Data Cubes	2004-05 to 2005-06	6225.0.55.001
Underemployed Workers, Australia	September 2008	6265.0
March 2009		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)April 2009	1350.0
Australian Social Trends	(a)March 2009	4102.0
Business Indicators, Australia	December 2008	5676.0
Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia	2007-08	6248.0.55.002
Industrial Disputes, Australia	December quarter 2008	6321.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia	February 2009	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	February 2009	6224.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	February 2009	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Quarterly	February 2009	6291.0.55.003
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	September 2008	6220.0
Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia - Data Cubes	2005-06	5673.0.55.003
April 2009		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)May 2009	1350.0
Australian Labour Market Statistics	(a)April 2009	6105.0
Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits	Jun 2006 to Jun 2008	8165.0
Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia	August 2008	6310.0
Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, Preliminary	August 2008	6305.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia	March 2009	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	March 2009	6224.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	March 2009	6291.0.55.001

(a) Refers to the issue of the publication, not the reference period.

## Labour Market Summary

### LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY

#### KEY MEASURES

Measure	Series type	Period	Current figure	Previous quarter(a)	% CHANGE FROM Previous year(b)
Employed					
Persons	'000	Trend	Nov 08	10 756.8	0.2
Full-time	'000	Trend	Nov 08	7 702.1	0.1
Part-time	'000	Trend	Nov 08	3 054.7	0.7
Part-time employment as a proportion of total employment	%	Trend	Nov 08	28.4	(c)0.1
Unemployed					
Persons	'000	Trend	Nov 08	488.6	2.2
Looking for full-time work	'000	Trend	Nov 08	340.1	3.7
Looking for part-time work	'000	Trend	Nov 08	148.6	-1.0
Unemployment rate					
Persons	%	Trend	Nov 08	4.3	(c)0.1

Long-term unemployment						
Persons	'000	Trend	Nov 08	73.0	3.8	5.9
As a proportion of total unemployment	%	Trend	Nov 08	14.9	(c)0.2	(c)0.3
Long-term unemployment rate	%	Trend	Nov 08	0.6	(c)0.0	(c)0.0
Quarterly labour underutilisation rates(d)						
Unemployment rate(e)	%	Trend	Nov 08	4.4	(c)0.1	(c)0.1
Underemployment rate	%	Trend	Nov 08	6.2	(c)0.2	(c)0.0
Labour force underutilisation rate(f)	%	Trend	Nov 08	10.6	(c)0.3	(c)0.2
Children living without an employed parent(g)	%	Original	Nov 08	13.4	(c)-0.3	(c)0.0
Labour force participation rate						
Persons aged 15-64 years	%	Original	Nov 08	76.0	(c)0.2	(c)-0.2
Total	%	Trend	Nov 08	65.1	(c)0.0	(c)0.0
Actual hours worked						
Aggregate weekly hours	mill. hours	Original	Nov 08	366.6	-0.3	0.8
Average weekly hours - Persons	hours	Original	Nov 08	34.2	-0.7	-0.7
Average weekly hours - Full-time	hours	Original	Nov 08	41.1	-0.5	-0.7
Average weekly hours - Part-time	hours	Original	Nov 08	16.8	-1.7	0.1
Part-time workers						
Proportion who preferred to work more hours	%	Original	Nov 08	23.6	(c)2.0	(c)0.5
Wage price index						
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses	index no.	Original	Sep qtr 2008	120.1	1.2	4.1
Average weekly earnings						
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	\$	Trend	Aug 08	1 145.10	1.2	4.5
All employees total earnings	\$	Trend	Aug 08	897.90	0.9	3.3
Compensation of employees						
Household income account	\$m	Trend	Sep qtr 2008	140 951	2.0	7.3
Average earnings (National Accounts basis nominal) per week	\$	Trend	Sep qtr 2008	1 139	1.5	4.8
Industrial disputes						
Working days lost	'000	Original	Sep qtr 2008	36.2	-58.2	220.2
Working days lost per 1,000 employees	number	Original	Sep qtr 2008	3.9	-57.8	211.8
Job vacancies(h)						
Australia	'000	Trend	May 2008	183.6	1.1	9.0

(a) Same period previous quarter (monthly data is presented for the middle month of each quarter).

(b) Same period previous year.

(c) Change in percentage points.

(d) See the Glossary for further explanation of labour underutilisation rates.

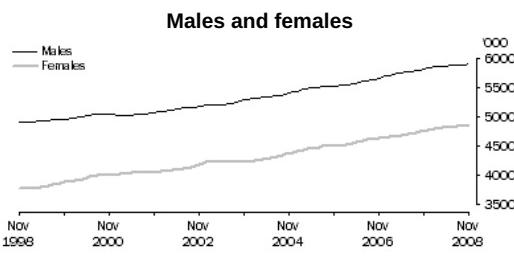
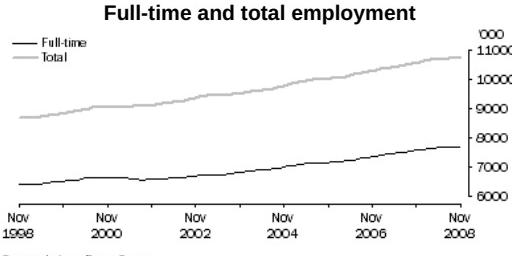
(e) The quarterly unemployment rate is compiled using data collected in the quarter months and may differ slightly from the official monthly unemployment rate.

(f) Discrepancies may occur due to rounding.

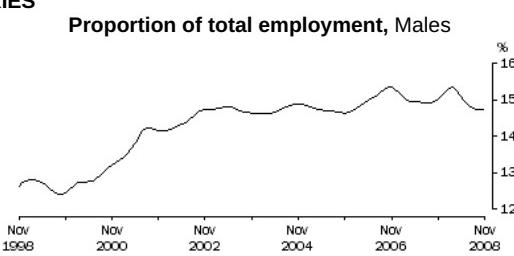
(g) As a proportion of all children aged under 15 years. See the Explanatory Notes for information on family data.

(h) The Job Vacancies Survey will not be conducted in 2008-09. The May issue of **Job Vacancies, Australia** (cat. no 6354.0), released in June 2008, was the final issue for 2007-08. The survey may be reinstated in 2009-10.

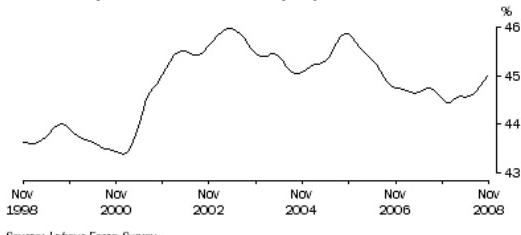
## EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES



## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES



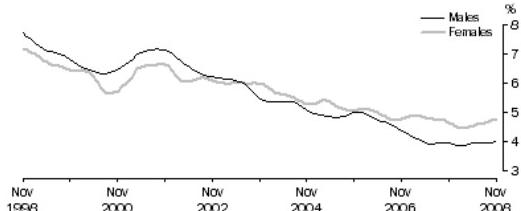
### Proportion of total employment, Females



Source: Labour Force Survey.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: TREND SERIES

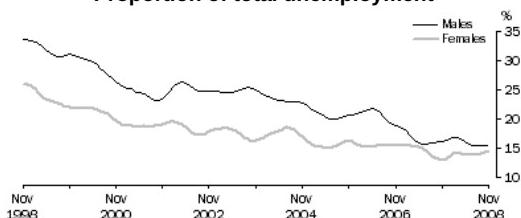
#### Males and females



Source: Labour Force Survey.

### LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

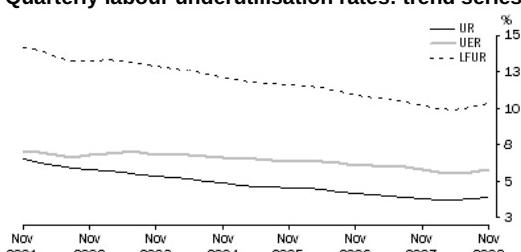
#### Proportion of total unemployment



Source: Labour Force Survey.

### UNDERUTILISED LABOUR

#### Quarterly labour underutilisation rates: trend series

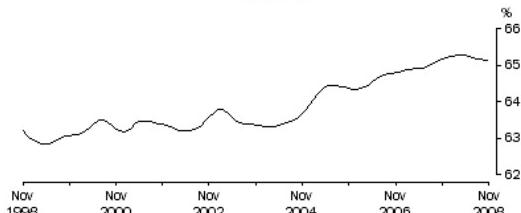


Notes: UR – unemployment rate  
UER – underemployment rate  
LFUR – labour force underutilisation rate  
See the Glossary for further information on the labour underutilisation rates.

Source: Labour Force Survey.

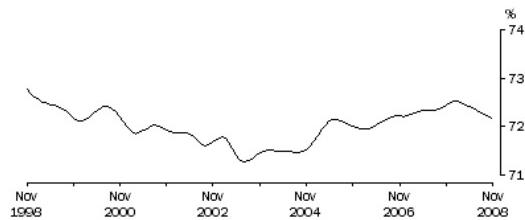
### PARTICIPATION RATE: TREND SERIES

#### Persons

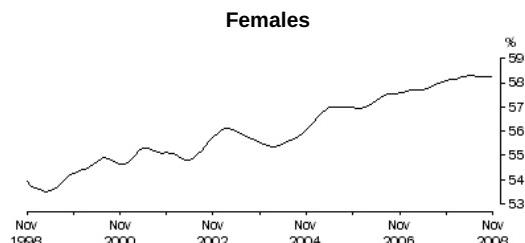


Source: Labour Force Survey.

#### Males



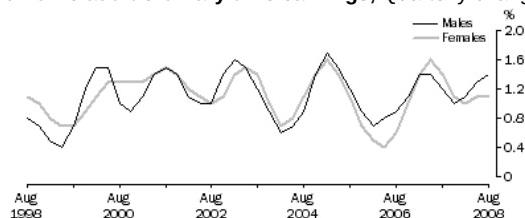
Source: Labour Force Survey.



Source: Labour Force Survey.

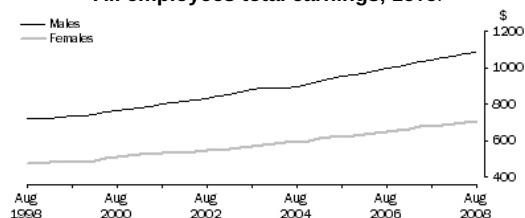
#### AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: TREND SERIES

##### Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, Quarterly change



Source: Survey of Average Weekly Earnings.

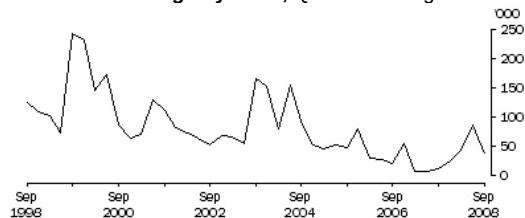
#### All employees total earnings, Level



Source: Survey of Average Weekly Earnings.

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: ORIGINAL SERIES

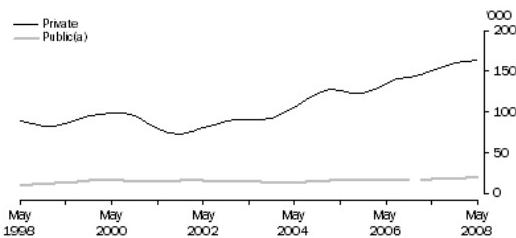
##### Working days lost, Quarter ending



Source: Industrial Disputes.

#### JOB VACANCIES: TREND SERIES

##### Job vacancies, by Sector



(a) Break in series between November 2006 and February 2007. See paragraphs 77 and 78 of the Explanatory Notes.

Notes: The Job Vacancies Survey will not be conducted in 2008-09. The May issue of the publication Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0), released in June 2008, was the final issue for 2007-08. The survey may be reinstated in 2009-10.

Source: Survey of Job Vacancies.

## About this Release

This publication draws together labour statistics from a range of ABS household and business surveys, to provide an overall picture of the labour market. The key purpose of this publication is to raise awareness of the data available, so that users will be able to use it more effectively.

It contains tables for core data items, presenting the most recent data available at a particular date (rather than relating to a particular reference period). It is also able to be used to announce the release of supplementary surveys and infrequent surveys. Note that, in addition to a brief article in this publication, these would also have separate releases, which would not be delayed by the release in this publication.

The publication is also used to release annual data on Indigenous labour force status, and annual supplementary measures of labour underutilisation. It includes a range of feature articles, both analytical and technical, which will assist users in understanding and interpreting the data and will also promote the range of data available from the ABS labour statistics program. It will be used to announce any changes to labour series or releases.

The publication contains brief explanatory notes, outlining each data source, but referring to the relevant releases, and to Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 6102.0.55.001, for more detail.

## Comparing unemployment and the claimant count (Feature Article)

### COMPARING UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CLAIMANT COUNT

#### INTRODUCTION

Estimates of the number of unemployed people are of interest from several perspectives. From a social perspective, a lack of work can have a significant effect on the financial, personal and social lives of individuals and their families. From an economic perspective, there is interest in the extent of available labour, concern about a scarcity of skilled labour, the cost of labour, and the economic cost of unemployment.

A number of sources of useful information exist to inform policymakers and analysts about people without work and about people who are receiving assistance to enter the labour force. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) has provided the official measures for employment and unemployment since February 1978, using definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The key measures produced from the LFS are estimates of the number of employed and unemployed, and the unemployment rate ([end note 1](#)). The estimates are derived from a sample survey, which in 2008-09 consisted of approximately 22,800 households across Australia.

Another important source of data is compiled by the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and relates to a count of the number of Labour Market Payment (LMP) recipients ([end note 2](#)). Within this population are 'Paid recipients', which excludes those who are not receiving a primary income support payment, and those who are not paid anything due to the application of the income test to either their own or their partner's income. Paid recipients can then be further classed as job seekers, and these are people for whom job search is their primary activity. 'Non job seekers' are exempt from undertaking job search as a primary activity (e.g. those temporarily incapacitated, undertaking training or part-time work), but they may still be looking.

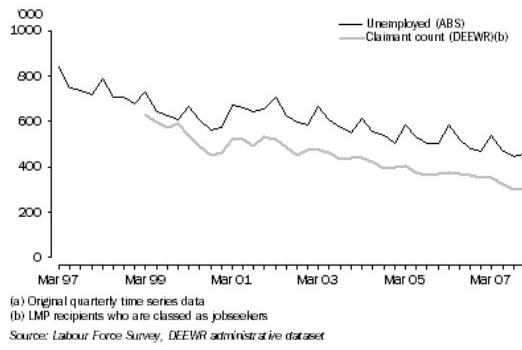
Comparisons are sometimes made between the official unemployment estimates produced by the ABS and the claimant count produced by DEEWR. While both of these series have tended to move broadly in line with each other over time, the two measures differ in many ways.

The purpose of this article is to explore the key differences between the two measures. It compares the unemployment estimates from the monthly LFS with claimant count data taken from an administrative dataset, based on various types of LMP delivered by Centrelink on behalf of DEEWR. The time series information relating to the claimant count presented in the article begins from 1999 and relates to 'job seekers' ([end note 3](#), [end note 4](#)). Job seekers were chosen for comparison as they are more conceptually aligned with the ABS definition of unemployment, in that they both need to be undertaking '**active**' job search.

#### OVERVIEW

In 2007, there were nearly half a million (478,300) unemployed people compared with 321,800 job seekers receiving labour market payments. Graph 1 shows the movement of the two measures over the period 1997-2007, both showing a downward trend over the past ten years.

#### 1. Unemployed and claimant count comparison - 1997-2007(a)



In 1999, the claimant count data was on average 54,900 persons fewer than the ABS estimate, but between 1999 and 2000, the gap widened as a result of a number of changes relating to the Newstart Allowance payment and to the compilation of the DEEWR administrative dataset ([end note 5](#)). Also from April 2001, a small population known as 'future starters' were included in the ABS estimates of unemployed people which also contributed to the difference between the two series ([end note 6](#)).

The ABS unemployed series is more sensitive to seasonal changes than the claimant count (as shown in Graph 1). The ABS estimates of unemployment are based on the number of people without work, who are actively seeking work and who are immediately available for work. The number of unemployed people generally peaks in the March quarters and troughs in the December quarters as people move in and out of unemployment due to calendar related influences such as the end of the academic year and increased economic activity at Christmas.

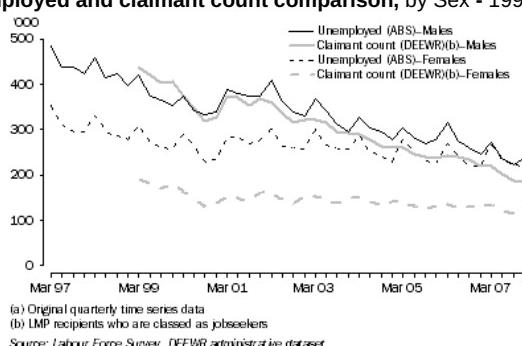
The DEEWR claimant count measures the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits, i.e. job seekers being paid Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (Other) - unemployed people aged 21 years and over (but below Age Pension Age) who are willing to undertake suitable paid employment, and those aged under 21 years who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices, both of whose primary activity is job search. The DEEWR claimant count series is not as sensitive to seasonal changes as the ABS unemployment series and shows relatively little systematic variation in level over each calendar year (see Graph 1).

#### SEX AND AGE ANALYSIS

An analysis of the sex and age distribution of the unemployment estimates and of the claimant count reveals a number of differences between the two groups. Overall, women accounted for 49% of all unemployed people in 2007, but just 39% of those job seekers in the claimant count. The overall difference observed in 2007 between the two measures for women has remained relatively consistent since 1999 (see Graph 2). During the period 1999-2007, there were on average around 110,000 more women who were unemployed compared to job seekers who were paid a LMP. It is apparent that many women who are 'unemployed', according to the ABS definition, do not appear in the administrative data counts. This may be because they are unable to claim LMP due to their partner's income exceeding the amount specified in the relevant personal income test ([end note 7](#)). It is also possible that many of these women do not appear in the 'claimant count' data as they may be eligible for a different type of income support payment, such as the parenting payment.

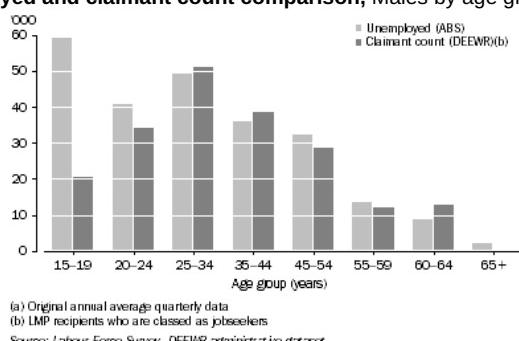
For men, the difference between the two measures was much smaller (20,800 on average) than for women, and during 1999 there were actually more men receiving LMP than were estimated as unemployed.

**2. Unemployed and claimant count comparison, by Sex - 1997-2007(a)**

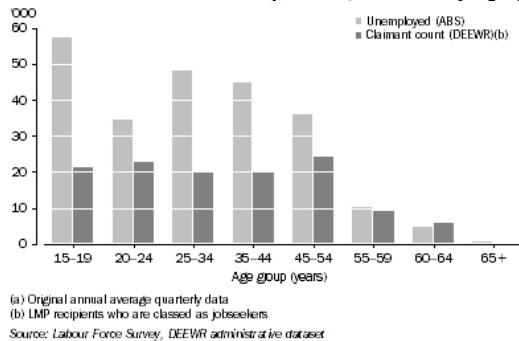


The age distribution of unemployed men and women is quite different to the claimant count (see Graphs 3 and 4). In 2007, the peak age group for unemployed men and women was 15-19 years. In contrast, the peak age for claimant count males was 25-34 years while for females it was 45-54 years.

**3. Unemployed and claimant count comparison, Males by age group - 2007(a)**



#### 4. Unemployed and claimant count comparison, Females by age group - 2007(a)



There are substantially more young men (aged 15-24 years) who are unemployed than there are in the claimant count, and this is also the case for young women.

The large difference between the number of 15-24 year olds in each measure is related to the administration of LMP to young people. In 2007, there were 191,900 persons aged 15-24 years classified as unemployed compared to only 98,700 persons in this age group who received LMP. People aged 15-24 years are likely to be full-time students and, as such, if they are eligible for any assistance (based on their parents income) they would receive a different type of payment to that which is included in the claimant count data.

For men between the ages of 25 and 59 years, there is little difference in the number of men in unemployment and the number of men in the claimant count.

In contrast, for women there is a large difference in almost all age groups in the number who are unemployed and in the number who are in the claimant count. The reasons for this have been discussed earlier in the analysis and relate to the effect their partner's income may have on their eligibility for a LMP, and the fact that they may be receiving other forms of income support.

In regards to older people, that is, men aged 65 years and over, some women aged 63-64 years, and all women aged 65 years and over, they are not included in claimant count data as they are eligible to claim the Age pension ([end note 8](#)). In contrast, the only age restriction in the ABS estimates is that people are aged 15 years and over.

#### CLAIMANTS WHO ARE NOT UNEMPLOYED

The previous paragraphs largely discussed people who are classified as unemployed in the monthly LFS, but who are excluded from receiving LMP. However, there are a number of people who receive LMP who would not be included in the unemployment estimates. For example, claimants are able to undertake paid work and yet continue to receive benefits until the income from that paid work reaches a specified level, at which time they become ineligible to receive further benefits. These people would not be classified as unemployed according to the ABS definition as they undertook one hour or more of paid work in the reference week; rather they would be classified as employed.

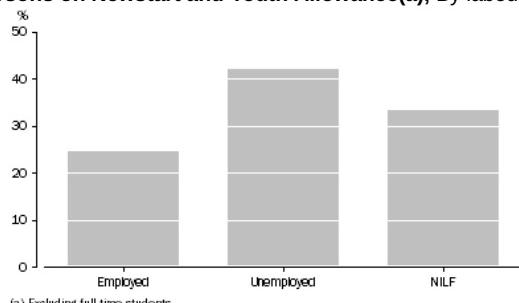
#### An indication of overlap between the two measures

From the LFS it is not possible to estimate how many people, unemployed or otherwise, are receiving LMP. However, we can get an indication of this from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) which was last run in 2005-06. The SIH collects information about people's labour force status (although not as comprehensively as the LFS) as well as their sources of income. The SIH income data is able to indicate whether people receive Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (YA), but it does not separately identify those recipients who only receive YA (Other). However, by excluding full-time students from the SIH data we are left with a population that approximates YA (Other), although full-time apprentices are still included. In this analysis, therefore, the following populations in the SIH; those receiving NSA, and the approximated YA (other) population, roughly equate to the paid jobseekers population in the claimant count.

As Graph 5 indicates, not all people receiving NSA and YA (excluding full-time students) are unemployed according to the ABS definition. In 2005-06, less than half (42%) of these recipients were defined as unemployed, with the remaining recipients classed as employed (25%) or not in the labour force (33%) ([end note 9](#)).

Furthermore, the SIH indicates that only 34% of all unemployed people were receiving NSA and YA (excluding full-time students).

#### 5. Distribution of persons on Newstart and Youth Allowance(a), By labour force status - 2005-06



## SUMMARY

There are a number of differences between the ABS unemployment estimates and the DEEWR claimant count and some of these have been discussed in this article. The following table summarises the key differences between the two measures by highlighting the groups of people who would be considered unemployed but not receiving LMP and vice versa (Table 6).

### 6. Summary of key differences between the unemployment estimate and the claimant count

	Unemployment estimate (ABS)	Claimant count (DEEWR)
Age in scope	Civilian population aged 15 years and over.	Includes all job seekers aged 15 to 64 years (upper age limit of 63-64 years for females, depending on date of birth).
Students	Includes all students aged 15 years and over as long as they meet the actively looking and availability criteria.	Excludes full-time students (receive a different type of payment).
Income and Assets	n.a.	Excludes those people whose personal/partners or parents income and assets are above the specified amount.
Paid work	Excludes all people who undertook one or more hours of paid work in the reference week.	Includes those people who have undertaken paid work in the reference week, where earnings are below the threshold for cut-off of LMP.
Active job search	Includes only those people who take active steps to find work in the four weeks prior to the survey (waived for future starters). <sup>(a)</sup>	Includes people who have been actively seeking work, or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects. Also includes some people who have been exempt from active job search based on personal circumstances (e.g. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis). <sup>(b)</sup>
Available to start work	Excludes those who are not available to start work in the reference week.	No specific criterion concerning availability to start work. Includes people who 'accept suitable offers of work'.

(a) For more information see end note 8.

(b) For more information see end note 7.

While the ABS unemployment measure and the DEEWR claimant count tell similar stories over time, they differ in many ways. The ABS unemployment measure is the official measure of unemployment in Australia, and is the best source for the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate. However the DEEWR claimant count data are useful for examining the numbers of people at the national and small area level who will be affected by changes to labour market payments.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the ABS unemployment estimates see [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0). For further information on the concept and definition of unemployment see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

For further information on the DEEWR claimant count data see [Labour Market and Related Payments - a monthly profile](#), (LMRP), available on the DEEWR website. This publication is produced on a monthly basis by DEEWR and includes information on the history of labour market payments, as well as small area estimates of claimant count data.

For further information about this article, please contact Deepa Wright (ph (02) 6252 6149 or email <deepa.wright@abs.gov.au>).

## END NOTES

1. The ABS definition of **employed** is: Persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
  - on strike or lock out; or
  - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

The ABS definition of **unemployed** is: Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then (future job starters).

The **unemployment rate** is defined as the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed).

2. Labour Market Payment recipients had a payment status of current for receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other).

3. The claimant count used in this article consists of all job seekers aged 15 to 64 years (63-64 for females, depending on date of birth) receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other). These recipients include those who received income from paid work as well as those who did not receive any income.

**Newstart Allowance** is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 21 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who are willing to

undertake suitable paid employment and, unless exempted, participate in approved activities and/or job search.

**Youth Allowance (Other)** recipients are Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices, i.e. eligible unemployed persons aged under 21 years, looking for work or combining part-time study with job search, or undertaking any other approved activity, or temporarily incapacitated for work or study. It may also include those classified as independent, aged 15 years and above the school leaving age in their state who are satisfying or exempt from the activity test.

**Youth Allowance** is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 20 years who satisfy the activity test. There are certain exceptions for some 15 to 25 year olds. Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, e.g. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis.

The **activity test** must be satisfied in order for people to receive either the Newstart Allowance or the Youth Allowance (Other). To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.

DEEWR defines **job seekers** as all those people being paid Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other), excluding those who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner's income, or where applicable, parental income, and all those known not to be required to search for work as their primary activity.

4. Due to changes in the administration of the labour market payments dataset between government departments, it is only possible to obtain electronically sourced claimant count data from 1999. Data is for one week of the quarter month and therefore differs to what is published in LMRP.

5. Between 1999-2000 there was a change in the definition of Newstart Allowance that reduced the number of recipients. Those recipients who were defined as 'current clients' were included in the administrative data, and all suspended clients were excluded (those who failed to comply with the administrative requirements).

During the period 1999-2000, there were also changes to the compilation of the DEEWR administrative dataset, that is all zero paid customers (those customers still 'current' who were not paid benefit due to their own or partners' earnings exceeding the allowed amount) were excluded. In addition, those clients in the Community Development Employment Projects were also excluded.

6. The ABS definition of **future job starters** is: persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

7. Applicants of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) are also subject to **personal income and assets tests**. Applicants of Newstart Allowance who are partnered are ineligible to receive payments if their partner earns \$1,408.00 or more per fortnight. As of 1 July 2008, applicants of Youth Allowance (Other) who are partnered, away from home and job seekers are ineligible to receive payments if their partner earns \$1,278.00 or more per fortnight. Applicants of Youth Allowance (Other) who are partnered, with dependents and job seekers are ineligible to receive payments if their partner earns \$1,394.00 or more per fortnight.

8. The maximum age range for females receiving LMP varies between 63 and 64 years of age, depending on their date of birth.

9. The ABS definition of **not in the labour force** is: persons aged 15 years and over who were not classified as employed or unemployed, as defined by the ABS.

## Jobless Families (Feature Article)

### JOBLESS FAMILIES

#### INTRODUCTION

Children living in jobless families or without an employed parent may be considered to be disadvantaged or potentially disadvantaged. Depending on individual circumstances, children living without employed parents or guardians may be at higher risk of financial hardship, and may be without role models of employment to follow. However, there may be positive effects for children living without an employed parent, for example, if the reason the parent is without a job is to care for children or to undertake study to try to improve the economic well-being of the household later on.

This article presents an analysis of jobless families in Australia, using improved estimates recently made available from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

#### SOURCE

Various measures of jobless families can be derived from the data in [Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families](#) (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001). The LFS is a monthly household survey with a sample of approximately 22,800 households in 2008-2009. Although the survey is primarily designed to collect employment and unemployment data, other information collected in the survey allows the production of family estimates.

In October 2008, family estimates for the period August 2004 to September 2008 were revised, using an improved methodology, and the frequency of publication was increased from annual to monthly. These estimates of types of families, accompanied by employment information for adult family members, are available at both the Australia and state/territory level for each month from August 2004 onwards. For more information on the new methodology, see [Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, Australia 2008](#) (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002). The analysis in this article is based on estimates derived using the improved methodology.

#### CONCEPTS

## **Children**

In considering children in jobless families, there are two definitions of children which can be used: namely, children under 15 years; or dependent children. Dependent children is the broader concept, comprising children under 15 years and children aged 15-24 years who are studying full time. Older dependent children (those aged 15-24 years) are more likely than children under 15 years to have access to other sources of income, such as part-time work or government benefits, rather than being reliant solely on their parents for financial support. For this reason there is an argument for excluding them from analysis if the focus is on risk of financial hardship. The analysis in this article is of jobless families with children under 15 years, as the group most at risk.

## **Families & Parents**

The LFS provides two choices of unit that can be used to measure the employment participation of people who live with children: the parent/s who reside with a child; or the family of a child, including other related persons 15 years or older who usually reside with the parent/s and the child. This article primarily focusses on parent/s, as the labour force status of the parent/s is likely to have more influence on a child than the labour force status of other adults in the family.

## **Joblessness**

Unemployment and non-employment are the two main measures in analysing joblessness. In ABS surveys, unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, had actively looked for work at any time in the four weeks up to the reference week, and were available for work in the reference week. Non-employment is a broader measure. As well as those who are unemployed, it also includes those who were not employed and did not meet the criteria to be unemployed (and may not even want a job). These people are classed as not in the labour force and this group can include retired people and people primarily caring for children or other family members at home.

## **Jobless families**

There are three possible measures of jobless families:

- Parent/s unemployed (the parent/s have a labour force status of unemployed);
- Parent/s not employed (the parent/s have a labour force status of unemployed and/or not in the labour force); and
- No family member employed (no adult family member is employed).

The second measure 'parent/s are not employed' is the preferred ABS measure and is the one used in this analysis. This measure includes couple families where both parents are either unemployed or not in the labour force and lone parent families where the sole parent is unemployed or not in the labour force. This measure therefore includes families where the parent/s have chosen not to work, are not actively seeking work, are not available to start work or are unable to work. In contrast, the first measure, 'parent/s unemployed' excludes these families and so understates the number of families which may be of interest.

The third measure 'no family member employed' uses the labour force status of all members of the family, including non parent adults, such as grandparents and adult siblings. While there may be value in measuring families where the children have no role model of an employed person in the family, it is the labour force status of the parent/s that is likely to have more influence on a child than the labour force status of other adults in the family.

It is important to note that the family estimates from the LFS include families where one or both parents have an unknown labour force status. These parents are outside of the scope of the LFS and so employment information is not collected about them, but as other information about them is known (such as their age, sex and relationship to others in the household), they are included in LFS family estimates. These people have either a labour force status of 'Not determined, defence force personnel' for permanent members of the Australian defence forces or 'Not determined, other' for all others with an unknown labour force status. For the purposes of this article, permanent members of the Australian defence forces are treated as employed. It is not known if people with a labour force status of 'not determined, other' are employed or not and so these families are excluded from this analysis of jobless families.

## **NUMBER OF JOBLESS FAMILIES**

The two tables below show the three measures of jobless families for November 2008. The data are available both as estimates of the number of families (with children under 15 years) and of the number of children aged 0 to 14 years.

**1. Families with children under 15 years(a)**

	Lone parent families '000	%	Couple families '000	%	Total families '000	%
Total (all families)	459.5	..	1 797.8	..	2 257.3	..
Measures of jobless families						
Parent/s unemployed	30.8	6.7	*4.6	*0.3	35.4	1.6
Parent/s not employed	203.7	44.3	74.8	4.2	278.5	12.3
No family member employed	182.6	39.7	62.5	3.5	245.1	10.9

\* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

.. not applicable

(a) Excludes families with employment status unknown.

Regardless of which measure of jobless families is used, there are considerably more jobless lone parent families than couple families, both in number and as a proportion of all families. Using the measure 'parent/s not employed', 12% of all families with children under 15 years are jobless, while 44% of lone parent families and only 4% of couple families are jobless. Furthermore, although there are more couple families (1,797,800) in Australia than lone parent families (459,500), there are more jobless lone parent families (203,700) than jobless couple families (74,800).

**2. Children aged 0 - 14 living in families(a)**

	Lone parent families '000	%	Couple families '000	%	Total families '000	%
Total (all children)	742.4	..	3 252.1	..	3 994.5	..
Measures of jobless families						
Parent/s unemployed	45.7	6.2	6.9	0.2	52.6	1.3
Parent/s not employed	358.5	48.3	143.9	4.4	502.4	12.6
No family member employed	327.0	44.0	127.5	3.9	454.5	11.4

.. not applicable

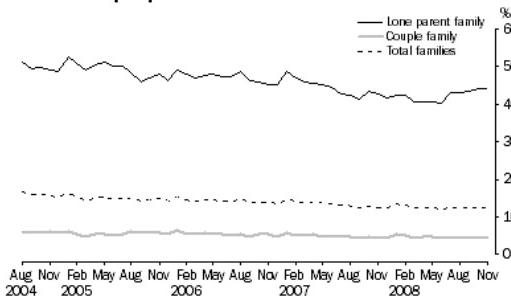
(a) Excludes families with employment status unknown.

The count of children in jobless families is naturally higher than the count of families, as many families contain more than one child. The proportion of children in jobless families is similar to the proportion of jobless families with 13% of children living in jobless families. Almost half (48%) of all children under 15 years in lone parent families live with a parent who is not employed.

## JOBLESS FAMILIES OVER TIME

Over the 4 years for which the improved LFS family estimates are available, the proportion of families who were jobless has decreased. During the same period, the unemployment rate for the civilian population of Australia also decreased from 5.4% to 4.3% (trend) (**Labour Force, Australia** cat. no. 6202.0.55.001). Jobless families accounted for 16% of all families in August 2004 and by August 2008 this had dropped to 12%. In early 2008 and at the beginning of each calendar year there is an increase in the number of jobless families. This correlates to an increase in employed persons in December and a decrease in employed persons in January/February each year (**Labour Force, Australia** cat. no. 6202.0.55.001).

### 3. Jobless families as a proportion of all families with children under 15 years



## COMPOSITION OF JOBLESS FAMILIES

### Family type

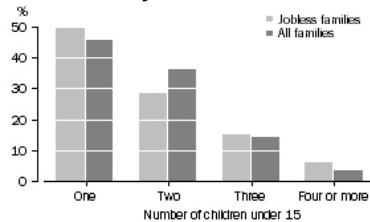
Lone parent families account for almost three-quarters (73%) of all jobless families. In the majority (85%) of lone parent jobless families, the parent is not in the labour force rather than unemployed. Not in the labour force includes those parents who did not actively seek work or were not available for work as well as those who have chosen not to work, possibly because they are caring for child/ren. Parents who are not looking for work account for 90% of all jobless lone parent families where the parent is not in the labour force. Parents who are not looking for work include those without intention to work as they are caring for child/ren or others in the family or engaged in study.

Couple families may also have a parent choosing not to work to care for children but if the other parent is employed it is not a jobless family. For a couple family to be jobless, both parents need to be not employed. The lower rates of jobless couple families may reflect the greater flexibility in employment options for a family with two parents.

### Family size

The chart below shows the distribution of jobless families and of all families by the number of children in the family. Families with one child under 15 years account for the largest share of all families (46%) and jobless families (50%). Jobless families have a higher proportion of families with only one child under 15 years and a lower proportion of families with two children.

### 4. Proportion of families by number of children under 15 years

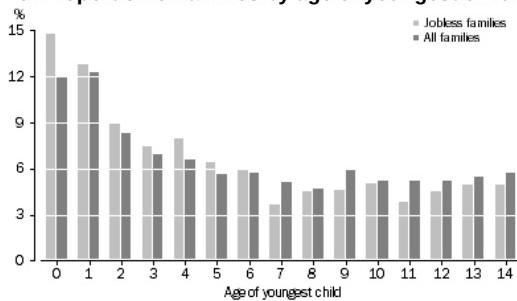


### Age of youngest child

The chart below shows the distribution of jobless families, and of all families, by the age of youngest child. The proportion of jobless families where the youngest child is under 5 years is higher than the proportion for all families, with over half (52%) the jobless families having at least one child under five years, compared to 46% of all families. This difference is even more apparent for lone parent families where families with the youngest child under 5 years account for 52% of jobless families and 35% of all families. This suggests that the presence of

one or more young children may be a common reason for families, and, in particular lone parent families, to be jobless. Families where the youngest child is older (aged ten to fourteen) are less common, accounting for 27% of all families and 23% of jobless families.

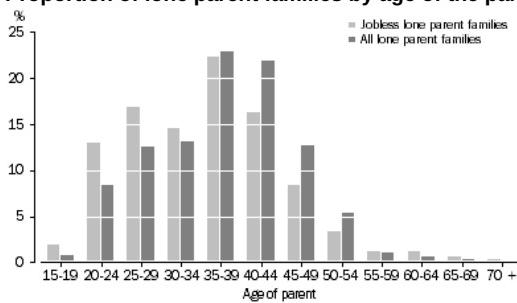
#### 5. Proportion of families by age of youngest child



#### Age of parent/s

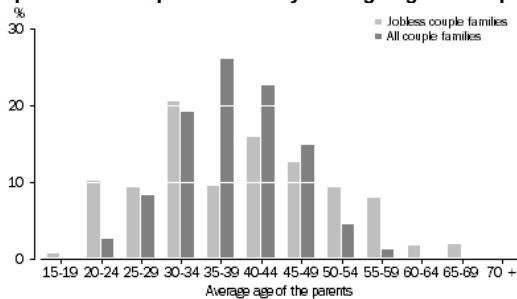
The chart below shows the distribution of lone parent families with children under 15 years by the age of the parent. The age distribution of jobless lone parents is generally younger than the distribution of all lone parents. For all families and jobless families with children under 15 years there are relatively few parents aged 60 and over. Jobless lone parent families account for a higher proportion of families with younger parents (aged 15 to 34) than all lone parent families.

#### 6. Proportion of lone parent families by age of the parent



A similar trend appears in the chart below which shows the distribution of couple families by the average age of both parents. Jobless couple families are more common amongst younger parents with 41% of jobless families and 30% of all families having an average age of the parents less than 35 years. Also, families where the average age of the parents is 50 years or higher account for 6% of all families and 21% of jobless families. These jobless families include families where the parent/s have retired and so are not in the labour force.

#### 7. Proportion of couple families by average age of the parents



#### FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about family estimates from the LFS see [Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families](#) (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001) or contact Carmel O'Regan on Canberra (02) 6252 6127 or email <carmel.oregan@abs.gov.au>.

## Retirement Intentions (Feature Article)

### RETIREMENT INTENTIONS

#### INTRODUCTION

As Australia's population ages, the plans or intentions that people have for retirement are an issue that is becoming increasingly topical. The ageing of the population poses significant challenges for Australia's long-term social and economic outlook. As the proportion of the population who are of traditional working age (15-64 years) decreases over the next 40 years, it is projected that economic growth will slow, whilst spending pressures in areas such as health, age pensions, and aged care are projected to rise ([end note 1](#)). The ageing population

therefore has the potential to have a large impact on the future well-being of Australian society.

Significant contributors to Australia's ageing population trend are the '**baby boomers**'. In this article, a baby boomer is defined as a person born between 1946 and 1964; during the post-World War II demographic 'baby boom'. In 2007, baby boomers were aged between 42 and 61 years. This group will be moving beyond the traditional working age and into retirement in the coming years (if they have not already done so), and the impact is likely to be reflected by an overall decrease in the labour force participation rate. As such, a number of policies have been introduced which aim to increase the participation rate. Some of these policies are designed to encourage older workers to remain in the labour force longer than they otherwise would have.

Moreover, while the fertility rate in Australia has recently increased it still falls below the replacement rate, meaning that there will be insufficient numbers of young people joining the labour force to offset the numbers that are leaving (**end note 2**). The recent policy shift involving increased numbers of younger skilled migrants will partially offset the rate of population ageing, however the large numbers of people retiring from the labour force are still likely to be reflected in a decline in labour force participation and a possible slowing of economic growth.

Information about the plans that people have for retirement provide insight into the timing and extent of older workers exiting paid work, as well as reasons why people retire and what might encourage them to delay their retirement plans. This article highlights the retirement intentions of employed Australians aged 45 years and over and the factors that influence when they intend to retire. This information was collected as part of the Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation (SEARS) conducted throughout Australia between April and July 2007 (**end note 3**).

This article also examines the main sources of income that people expect to retire on, whether they expect to be self-funded during their retirement, and how long for. While this information was collected a year before the onset of the 'global financial crisis' in late 2008, it can provide some background to the potential impacts on people's superannuation and their ability to be self-funded in retirement.

## OVERVIEW

In 2007, the survey estimated that there were 7.7 million people aged 45 years and over in Australia. Of these, 3.1 million (41%) were retired from the labour force; 3.9 million (50%) were currently employed; 110,700 (1%) were currently unemployed; and 574,600 (7%) were not currently in the labour force, but had not retired (**end note 4**).

There were more employed men aged 45 years and over than there were employed women (2.2 million, or 58% of men; compared to 1.7 million, or 44% of women). Conversely, there were more women who had retired than men (1.8 million, or 45% of women; compared to 1.3 million, or 36% of men). This partly reflects the fact that there are more women in the older age groups than men, and also reflects the tendency of women to retire earlier than men. Half of all retired people were aged 70 years and over (54% of retired men and 49% of retired women).

The baby boomer generation, who were aged between 42 and 61 years at the time of the survey, accounted for two-fifths (40%) of all employed people aged 15 years and over (39% of employed men and 41% of employed women) and the majority (87%) of employed people aged 45 years and over (85% of employed men and 90% of employed women). They also accounted for 21% of retired people aged 45 years and over (18% of retired men and 24% of retired women).

The remainder of this article analyses the 3.9 million employed people aged 45 years and over, and their plans for retirement. In addition, comparisons are made between this group's retirement plans and the currently retired population in terms of the age at which they retired, their decisions for retirement, and what their main source of income was at retirement.

Detailed information about retirement was only collected for people who had worked previously (for 2 weeks or more) and retired within the past 20 years. As retirement intentions data are only collected for people aged 45 years and over, for the purposes of this article the retired population has been restricted to those who retired within the previous 20 years and were aged 45 years and over at retirement.

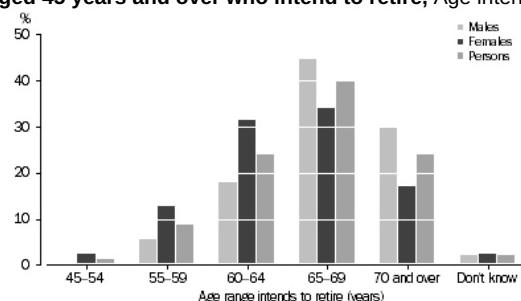
## RETIREMENT INTENTIONS

In 2007, there were 3.9 million employed people aged 45 years and over, of whom the majority (85%) intended to eventually retire from the labour force and mostly over the next 20 years (see Graph 1). About 15% (568,400) of employed people aged 45 years and over indicated that they did not intend to retire, and nearly two-thirds (64%) of these were men.

Of the 3.3 million people who indicated that they did intend to retire at some stage:

- 24% intended to retire aged 70 years and over (30% of men, 17% of women);
- 40% intended to retire aged 65-69 years (45% of men, 34% of women);
- 24% intended to retire aged 60-64 years (18% of men, 31% of women);
- 9% intended to retire aged 55-59 years (5% of men, 13% of women);
- 1% intended to retire aged 45-54 years (0.3% of men, 2% of women); and
- the remaining 2% did not know the age at which they would retire (2% of men, 2% of women).

**1. Employed persons aged 45 years and over who intend to retire, Age intends to retire, April-July 2007**

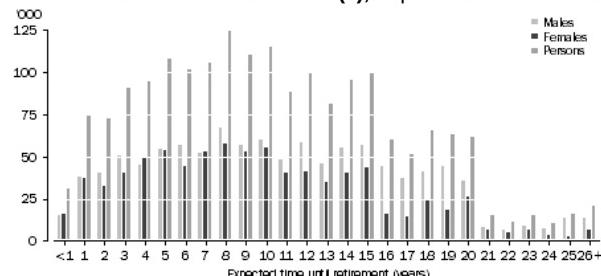


The average age at which people intended to retire was 64 years (64 years for men, 62 years for women). This is 5 years later than the

average age at retirement for the retirees identified in the survey. Of those who had retired in the 20 years prior to the survey, and were over the age of 45 years when they retired, the average age at retirement was 59 years (60 years for men, 57 years for women) (**end note 5**).

Of the 3.3 million employed people aged 45 years and over who intended to retire, 1.4 million people were only able to provide an approximate age range (of five years), while 74,400 people did not know when they intended to retire. Of the remaining 1.9 million people who were able to give an age at which they intended to retire, 19% (or 363,900 people) expected to leave the labour force and retire (with no intention of returning to paid work again) within the next 5 years. A further 29% (or 550,500 people) expected to leave in 5 to 9 years, 25% (or 480,500 people) in 10 to 14 years, 18% (or 340,900 people) in 15 to 19 years, and 8% (or 150,100 people) in 20 years or more. Over one million people plan to retire in the next ten years.

## 2. Employed persons aged 45 years and over who intend to retire(a), Expected time until retirement from all work, April-July 2007



(a) Employed persons aged 45 years and over who intended to retire and were able to provide an exact age at which they intended to retire.

## PLANS AND TRANSITIONS TO RETIREMENT

### Full-time workers

Of the employed people aged 45 years and over who intended to retire, 2.4 million (71%) were working full-time. Close to half (48%) of these workers intended to leave full-time work and transition into part-time work before they retired, while 32% intended to continue with full-time work before they retired. The remaining 20% did not know whether they intended to work part-time before they retired from the labour force. A similar pattern was observed for men and women.

The average age that full-time workers intended to begin working part-time in transition to retirement was 60 years (61 years for men, 59 years for women), and the average age at which this group intended to retire from all work was 65 years (66 years for men, 64 years for women). Full-time workers who either intended to continue with full-time work until they retired, or who did not know if they would take up part-time work before retiring, intended to retire earlier at 63 years (63 years for men, 61 years for women).

Of the 1.1 million people who intended to leave full-time work and work part-time before retiring, nearly two thirds (64%) planned to change to part-time work but continue with their current employer. A further 12% intended to work part-time, change employer and change to a completely different line of work, and 5% intended to change employer and work part-time with no other plans to phase in retirement.

Of the 748,000 people who intended to continue with full time work until they retired, 69% planned to remain with their current employer with no further plans to phase in retirement. A further 18% planned to remain with their current employer but with less demanding duties, and 4% planned to remain with their current employer but either work on a contract basis or spend more time working from home.

Relatively few full-time workers who intended to continue with full time work until they retired planned to change their employer (10% or 71,600 people). Most of these either planned to change employer with no further plans to phase in retirement (25,700 people) or change employer and move to a completely different line of work (24,800 people).

### Part-time workers

The majority (86%) of the 1.1 million people aged 45 years and over who were working part-time intended to retire from the labour force. The average age at which they intended to retire was 63 years (65 years for men, 62 years for women). The remaining 14% of part-time workers indicated that they did not intend to retire.

## DECISIONS ABOUT WHEN TO RETIRE

'Financial security' is a major factor influencing people's decisions about when to retire, with 39% (1.3 million persons) of those intending to retire citing this as their main factor (see graph 3). For these people the average age they intended to retire at was 63 years (64 years for men, 62 years for women). With the global financial crisis negatively impacting on people's sense of financial security, some of this group may now be likely to retire later than they had originally intended.

'Personal health or physical abilities' also plays a major role in decisions about retirement, with 633,100 people (19% of those intending to retire) reporting this as the main factor influencing the timing of their retirement. The average age at which this group intended to retire was 65 years (66 years for men, 64 years for women). It is interesting to note that those who believe that their health will be the main factor that ultimately influences when they will retire, expect to retire on average 2 years later than those who think financial security will play a larger role. Health problems are hard to predict, and those not intending to retire until their health fails are likely to be hopeful that this will occur later in life; whereas those waiting for a sense of financial security before retiring would be hopeful that this could be achieved earlier. However, the unpredictability of health problems is evident when the main factors influencing retirement intentions are compared with the main reasons for retirement amongst those already retired.

Amongst the 1.8 million people who retired between 1987 and 2007, and were over the age of 45 when they retired, the most commonly reported main reason for retirement was 'personal health or physical abilities' (31%), whereas 'financial security' was only reported as the main reason for retirement by 4% of retirees. The average age at retirement for those retiring mainly due to their health was 57 years (58 years for men, 56 years for women), whereas the average age at retirement for those retiring due to financial security was 61 years (62 years for men, 59 years for women). This shows that when health problems occur their impact on people's ability to participate in the labour market can override their requirement to be financially secure, and that health problems tend to interfere with labour force participation at a

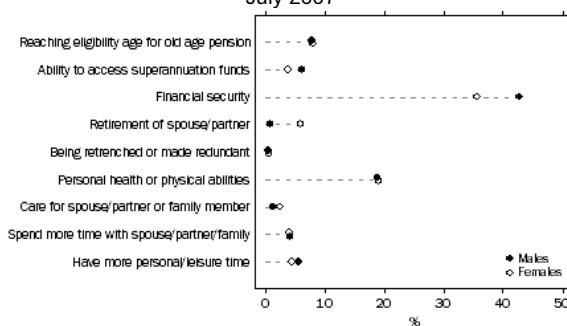
younger age than the achievement of financial security.

Another unpredictable factor that influences retirement decisions is 'being retrenched or made redundant'. While less than 1% of those intending to retire expected this to be the main factor influencing their decision about when to retire, of those who retired between 1987 and 2007, 151,600 people (8%) reported this as the main reason that they retired. The average age at retirement for this group was 57 years (58 years for men, 55 years for women).

There were some sex differences in the main factors influencing the decision to retire. More women than men stated that the decisive factor was the 'retirement of (their) spouse/partner' (6% of women who intended to retire reported this, compared to 1% of men who intended to retire), or the 'need to care for (their) spouse/partner or family member' (3% of women compared to 1% of men). Conversely, more men than women gave 'financial security' as their main factor (43% of men compared to 36% of women) and the 'ability to access superannuation funds' (6% of men compared to 4% of women).

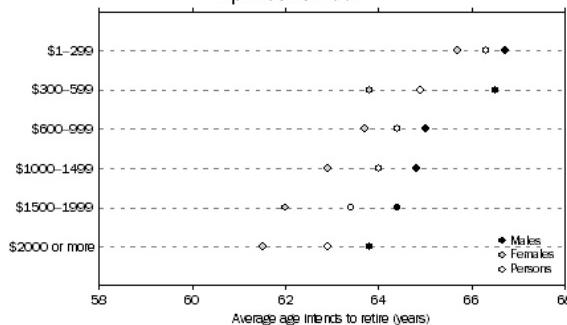
Of those who gave the 'ability to access superannuation funds' as the main factor influencing their decision about when to retire, the average age at which they intended to retire was 62 years (63 years for men, 61 years for women). This is higher than the age at which people can currently access their superannuation benefits in Australia, which is between 55 and 60 years, depending on date of birth (**end note 6**).

### **3. Employed persons aged 45 years and over who intend to retire, Selected main factors influencing decision about when to retire, April-July 2007**



The decision about when to retire is not necessarily an individual one, as often this decision is discussed with partners (and in some cases other members of the household) to determine when it can happen and takes into consideration a number of factors. The amount of gross income that a household receives each week appears to have an impact on when people intend to retire (and is likely to be linked to their ability to be financially secure). People living in households which receive lower amounts of gross income per week intend to retire later than those households receiving higher amounts (see Graph 4).

### **4. Employed persons aged 45 years and over who intend to retire, Gross weekly household income by average age intends to retire, April-June 2007**



### **MAIN EXPECTED SOURCE OF INCOME AT RETIREMENT**

Of all employed people aged 45 years and over who intended to retire from the labour force, 43% reported that their expected main source of income at retirement would be income from 'superannuation, an annuity or allocated pension'. The average age at which this group intended to retire was 63 years (64 years for men, 62 years for women). A higher proportion of men than women reported that this would be their main source of income (49% and 36% respectively).

The second most commonly reported expected main source of income at retirement was a 'government pension or allowance', with nearly one quarter (24%) of people who intended to retire expecting that this would be their main source (23% of men and 26% of women). The average age at which this group intended to retire was 65 years (66 years for men, 64 years for women). These ages are consistent with the age eligibility requirements to access the aged pension, which are 65 years for males, and between 63 and 65 years for females, depending on their date of birth (**end note 7**).

There were some men (10%) and women (20%) who intended to retire from the labour force and who did not expect to have any personal income source when they retired. These people expected to live off savings, assets or their partner's income. Women expecting to live off savings, assets or their partner's income had the lowest expected average age at retirement (60 years). Just over half (51%) of the women who intended to retire between the ages of 45 and 54 years, expected to have no personal income source when they retired.

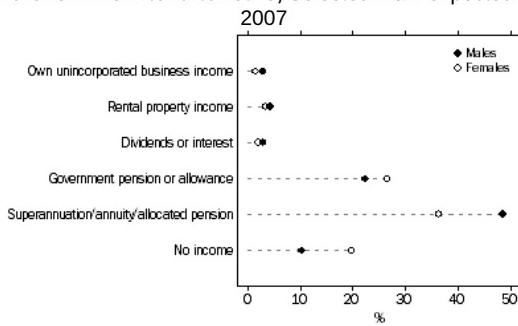
People whose main expected source of income at retirement was 'own unincorporated business income', 'rental property income', 'dividends or interest', or 'superannuation, an annuity or allocated pension' were also asked to estimate how long they expected to be self-funding after they gave up all paid work. Close to half (44%) of those who reported their expected main source of income at retirement to be from 'superannuation, an annuity, or an allocated pension' estimated that they will be self-funding for life.

Both men and women intending to be funded by 'rental property income', or 'dividends or interest', also intended to retire relatively early, at 62 years. Over half (51%) of those intending to be mainly funded by 'rental property income' intended to be self-funding for life, as did 58% of

those intending to be mainly funded by 'dividends or interest'.

Generally, men who intended to live off their 'own unincorporated business income' intended to retire relatively late. The average age at which they intended to retire was 66 years, and 43% of this group intended to be self-funding for life.

##### 5. Employed persons aged 45 years and over who intend to retire, Selected main expected source of income at retirement, April-July



There were notable differences reported by those who had already retired compared to those who intended to retire regarding their main (expected) source of income at retirement.

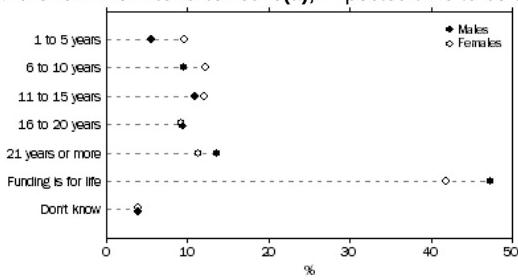
For those who had retired during the 20 years prior to the survey, the most common main source of income at retirement was a 'government pension or allowance' (47% of those who had already retired compared with 24% for people intending to retire). The next most common main source of income at retirement was 'no income' (living off savings, assets or their partner's income) (28% compared with 15% for people intending to retire). 'Superannuation, an annuity or allocated pension' was the main source of income at retirement for 14% of those who had retired during the 20 years prior to the survey, while almost half (43%) of those who intended to retire expected that this would be their main source of income. The change to a greater dependence on superannuation amongst future retirees reflects the impact of compulsory superannuation initiatives that were introduced in the late 1980s and early 1990s ([end note 8](#)).

##### INTENTIONS TO BE SELF-FUNDING IN RETIREMENT

More than half (52%) of the 3.3 million people who intended to retire intended to be self-funding in retirement; that is, their main expected source of income at retirement was 'own unincorporated business income', 'rental property income', 'dividends or interest', or 'superannuation, an annuity or allocated pension'. Most (62%) of those who intended to be self-funding were men.

Of the 1.7 million people who intended to be self-funding in retirement, 7% intended to be self-funding for 1 to 5 years, 11% for 6 to 10 years, 9% for 16 to 20 years, and 13% for 21 years or more. Almost half (45%) expected to be self-funding for life (see Graph 6). The remaining 4% did not know how long they intended to be self-funding for. There were higher proportions of women intending to be self-funding for 1 to 15 years, and higher proportions of men intending to be self-funding for 16 years to life.

##### 6. Employed persons aged 45 years and over who intend to retire(a), Expected time to be self-funding in retirement, April-July 2007



(a) For employed persons aged 45 years and over who intended to retire and expected their main source of income at retirement to be own unincorporated business income, rental property income, dividends or interest, or superannuation, an annuity or allocated pension.

More than half of the 780,600 people intending to be self-funding for life were under 55 years of age at the time of the survey (58%), and this partly reflects the large number of employed people in this age range. The age range in which there was the highest proportion of people intending to be self-funding for life was 65-69 years, and 57% of these expected to be self-funding for life.

Over half (53%) of the baby-boomers intending to retire intended to be self-funding, compared to 44% of those who were aged 62 years or over at the time of the survey. However, a lower proportion of baby boomers expected that they would be self-funding for life; 44% of baby boomers intending to be self-funding in retirement intended to be self-funding for life, compared to 54% of those aged 62 or over at the time of the survey.

SEARS 2007 found that almost a quarter (23%) of all employed people aged 45 years and over intending to retire expected to be self-funding for life. This would imply that in the future, 77% of currently employed people aged 45 years and over who intend to retire will rely on their spouse or the government as their main source of income at some point in their retirement.

##### FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about people's retirement intentions presented in this article and for information about SEARS 2007 see [Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia, April to July 2007](#) (cat. no. 6361.0).

For further information about this article, please contact Tracey Chester (ph (02) 6252 5609 or email <tracey.chester@abs.gov.au>).

## END NOTES

1. Australian Government 2007, **Intergenerational Report 2007**, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
2. ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2008, **Births, Australia, 2007**, cat. no. 3301.0, ABS, Canberra.
3. SEARS 2007 collected detailed information about employment arrangements, working patterns, work and caring, retirement and retirement intentions, superannuation coverage and other characteristics. For further information see **Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia, April to July 2007** (cat. no. 6361.0).
- 4.'People who have retired from labour force' are those who had previously worked for two weeks or more, were not in the labour force and who did not intend to look for, or take up, paid work in the future.
5. It is important to note that age at retirement as presented in this publication only refers to 'surviving' retirees aged 45 years or over in 2007. Therefore, the distribution of age at retirement in this population is not representative of the age at which all people retire. For example, based on Australian life expectancy, a person who retired aged 40 years in 1982 (aged 65 years in 2007) would more likely be alive to participate in this survey than a person who retired aged 65 years in 1982 (who would be aged 90 years if still alive in 2007). Whilst this will have some effect on all age at retirement estimates, the effect would be more pronounced for estimates presented in relation to people who retired a long time ago, and in this article those who retired more than 20 years ago have been excluded from analysis.
6. Australian Government 2008, **When Can I Access My Super Benefits?** Australian Taxation Office. <http://www.ato.gov.au/super/content.asp?doc=/content/48211.htm>
7. Australian Government 2008, **Eligibility for Age Pension**, Centrelink. [http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/age\\_eligible.htm](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/age_eligible.htm)
8. See AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 1997, '21. Superannuation in Australia' in **Older Australians at a Glance**, cat. no. AGE 4, AIHW, Canberra. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/age/oag/oag-c21.html>

## Spotlight on Underutilisation (Feature Article)

### SPOTLIGHT ON UNDERUTILISATION

#### QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION RATE

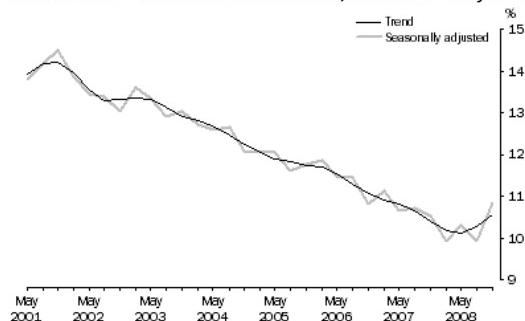
##### INTRODUCTION

The Australian labour market has experienced significant changes in recent decades. Among these is the increase in the proportion of employed people working part-time (from 15% in 1978 to 28% in 2007). As part-time employment has become more prevalent, there is an increasing scope for underemployment, that is part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours. With the increase in part-time employment, underemployment has become an important social and economic issue, and as such the quarterly labour force underutilisation rate (QLFUR) (unemployed plus the underemployed as a proportion of the labour force) is an increasingly important indicator of spare capacity in the labour market.

##### UNDERUTILISATION IS INCREASING

In seasonally adjusted terms the QLFUR was 10.8% in November 2008, an increase of 0.9 percentage points from August 2008 (9.9%). This was the largest quarter to quarter movement of the seasonally adjusted data since the series started in May 2001. As a result of this increase, the trend QLFUR was 10.6% in November 2008, an increase of 0.5 percentage points from the trend series low observed in May 2008 (10.1%), indicating a turning point in the series. However this will only be confirmed when more time points become available, after which the seasonally adjusted and trend series will be revised (**end note 1**).

1. Quarterly labour force underutilisation rate, Persons - May 2001 - Nov 2008



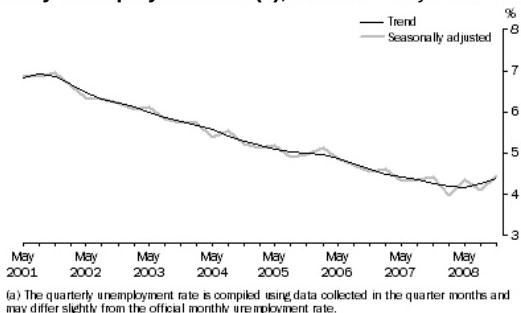
##### Components of underutilisation

The QLFUR can also be thought of as the sum of the quarterly unemployment rate and the quarterly underemployment rate. Since May 2008, increases in both the trend quarterly unemployment rate and the trend quarterly underemployment rate have contributed to the increase in the QLFUR.

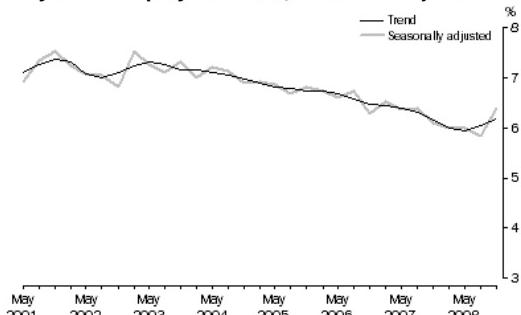
The trend quarterly unemployment rate increased from 4.2% in May 2008 to 4.4% in November 2008, while the trend underemployment rate

increased from 5.9% to 6.2%, respectively.

## 2. Quarterly unemployment rate(a), Persons - May 2001 - Nov 2008



## 3. Quarterly underemployment rate, Persons - May 2001 - Nov 2008



## OTHER USEFUL MEASURES

ABS produces a number of measures that are useful in gauging the extent and volume of labour market slack. Each month the ABS publishes the unemployment rate and the long-term unemployment rate, and each quarter the QLFUR (including the quarterly underemployment rate) is produced. Furthermore, the extended labour force underutilisation rate is produced annually and this measures the degree of labour underutilisation that exists within and outside of the labour force.

In addition, in the July issue of [Australian Labour Market Statistics](#) (cat. no. 6105.0), the ABS publishes volume or hours based measures of labour underutilisation. These measures provide estimates of the number of (additional) hours that the unemployed and underemployed have to offer.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further data regarding the quarterly measures of labour underutilisation please see Tables 4.1 to 4.4 in this publication. For further information about any of the measures mentioned in this article, please contact Tracey Chester (ph (02) 6252 5609 or email <tracey.chester@abs.gov.au>).

## END NOTES

1. [Research Paper: Some Aspects of Turning Point Detection in Seasonally Adjusted and Trend Estimates \(Methodology Advisory Committee, June 2006\)](#) ( cat. no. 1352.0.55.079)

# Explanatory Notes

## Explanatory Notes

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### INTRODUCTION

1 [Australian Labour Market Statistics](#) brings together a range of ABS labour statistics to present a statistical summary of the Australian labour market. It has been developed primarily as a reference document, and provides a broad basis for labour analysis and research.

2 In addition to data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), this publication contains statistics from a range of other ABS labour surveys including Average Weekly Earnings, the Labour Price Index, Job Vacancies, Employment and Earnings - Public Sector, and Industrial Disputes. The publication also includes summary data from recently released labour force supplementary surveys.

3 This publication includes international data for selected labour market indicators.

### LABOUR STATISTICS CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

**4** The concepts and definitions underpinning ABS labour statistics align closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts of Australia's labour market statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), which is available on the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Themes - People - Labour - [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#)].

**5** For an explanation of terms used in this publication, refer to the Glossary.

## LABOUR STATISTICS THEME PAGE

**6** The Labour Statistics theme page is a portal to all labour statistics and related information residing on the ABS website. The page contains hyperlinks to [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001); information about labour related surveys; and a help page for respondents to ABS labour related surveys. The Labour Theme Page can be accessed at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Themes - People - Labour].

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES

**7** Series in this publication include **original**, **seasonally adjusted** and **trend** series. Special care should be taken in interpreting data for the most recent months and quarters, as some of the original and all of the seasonally adjusted and trend series are subject to revision.

**8** It is not uncommon for movements in original time series data and those provided from seasonally adjusted and trend series to differ. Movements in a time series of original data may reflect several factors, including:

- longer-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements)
- short-term irregular changes
- regular seasonal influences
- normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns
- systematic holiday effects.

**9** Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. This means that month-to-month movements of the seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.

**10** The Labour Force Survey uses the concurrent seasonal adjustment method to derive seasonal factors. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses data up to the current month to estimate seasonal factors for the current and all previous months. This process can result in revisions each month to estimates for earlier periods. However, in most instances, the only noticeable revisions will be to the seasonally adjusted estimates for the previous month and one year prior to the current month.

**11** Seasonal adjustment is able to remove the effect of events which occur at the same time in the survey every year. However, there are some events, like holidays, which are not always at the same time in the survey cycle or which are not at the same time across Australia. The effects of these types of events on Labour Force Survey estimates cannot in all cases be removed, because the pattern of their effects cannot be determined. However, two events which are adjusted for in the seasonally adjusted series are the January interview start date and the timing of Easter.

**12** Trend estimates help the user to identify the underlying magnitude and direction of a time series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of the last three listed influences from the data, leaving only trend and short-term irregular movements. Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in some series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data.

**13** Trend estimates are produced by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series using a statistical procedure based on Henderson moving averages. At each time point in a series, a trend estimate is calculated using a centred x-term Henderson moving average of the seasonally adjusted series. The moving averages are centred on the point in time at which the trend is being estimated. The number of terms used to calculate the trend varies across surveys. Generally, ABS monthly surveys use a 13-term moving average and quarterly surveys use a 7-term moving average.

**14** Estimates for the most recent time points cannot be calculated using the centred average method as there are insufficient data to do so. Instead, alternative approaches that approximate the smoothing properties of the Henderson moving average are used. This can lead to revision in the trend estimates for the most recent time periods until sufficient data are available to calculate the trend using the centred Henderson moving average. Revisions of trend estimates will also occur with revisions to the original data and re-estimation of seasonal adjustment factors.

**15** Seasonal factors are reviewed at least annually for ABS labour series, to take account of additional original data. The results of the latest reviews were used to compile the trend estimates given in this publication. For further information about the most recent reviews of seasonal factors for the labour surveys, see the following publications:

- for labour force see [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)
- for labour price index see [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0)
- for average weekly earnings see [Average Weekly Earnings, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6302.0)
- for public sector employees see [Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001)
- for job vacancies see [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6354.0).

**16** The general methods used in the ABS for estimating trends are described in [Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends](#) (cat. no. 1349.0).

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**17** Estimates in this publication are subject to two types of error:

- sampling error - errors that occur because the data were obtained from a sample rather than the entire population
- non-sampling error - errors that occur at any stage of a survey and can also occur in a census, e.g. incorrect responses to questions, processing errors, frame deficiencies.

**18** For more information on these sources of error, and on measures of these types of errors, including standard errors, refer to the main publications associated with each of the data series presented in this publication (see the relevant sections later in these Explanatory Notes). More information on standard errors applying to LFS estimates is contained in [Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, 2005](#) (cat. no. 6298.0). To assist users, a spreadsheet incorporating the revised standard error models using composite estimation is available from [Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube, 2007](#) (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

## ROUNDING

**19** Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DATA

### Description of the survey

**20** Data in tables 1.1-1.7, 2.1-2.10, 3.1-3.3, and 4.1 to 4.6 are obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which provides extensive information about the labour market on a monthly basis. The LFS is a component of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), which includes the LFS and supplementary surveys.

### Monthly Population Survey

**21** The MPS is a population survey based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (currently about 23,000 houses, flats, etc.), and list samples of discrete Indigenous communities and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about 0.24% of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from occupants of selected dwellings by interviewers, with the first interview conducted face-to-face and subsequent interviews over the telephone. Once selected, households are included for eight consecutive months before being replaced.

### Labour Force Survey

**22** The LFS has been conducted on a monthly basis since February 1978. Prior to that, from 1964 to 1978, a national survey was conducted quarterly. Telephone interviewing was introduced between August 1996 and February 1997. New questionnaires have been introduced periodically, most recently in April 2001.

**23** The LFS includes all usual residents of Australia aged 15 and over except:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

**24** From July 1993, Jervis Bay Territory has been excluded from the scope of the LFS.

### Supplementary surveys

**25** The supplementary surveys collect additional data on a different topic each month. Many topics covered are rotated on an annual or less frequent basis, while others are included once only. Results from each supplementary survey topic are released separately. A list of topics covered in recent years is in Appendix 3.

**26** The supplementary surveys include a subset of the persons included in the LFS (see paragraph 20). The additional exclusions for most supplementary surveys are:

- persons living in private dwellings in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia
- institutionalised persons
- boarding school pupils.

### Multi-Purpose Household Survey

**27** The Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) was introduced in 2004-05. This survey vehicle is designed to provide statistics annually for a number of small, self contained topics, including a number of labour related topics. Data for MPHS topics are collected each month over a financial year. A list of topics covered in recent years is in Appendix 3.

**28** In addition to those already excluded from the LFS, the following people are excluded from most MPHS topics:

- people under 15 years
- people living in private dwellings in very remote parts of Australia
- people living in non-private dwellings such as hotels, university residences, students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities) and inmates of prisons
- visitors to private dwellings.

**29** Depending on the topic, there may be further exclusions from scope. For example, some MPHS topics collect information only from a certain population or interest group (e.g. information on retirement and retirement intentions is collected from people aged 45 years or over).

## **Reference period**

**30** Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month, with questions relating to the week prior to the interview (the reference week).

## **Notes on data**

**31** From time to time, changes to survey methodology affect the time series produced. Some examples of changes to this survey are: new questions added to the LFS questionnaire in April 2001; and the introduction of telephone interviewing in 1996-97.

**32** In February 2004 the definition of unemployed persons was changed to include all persons who were waiting to start work and were available to start in the reference week, with consequent revisions to data from April 2001 to January 2004. For further details, see [Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2003](#) (cat. no. 6292.0).

**33** In May 2007, an improved method of estimation, known as composite estimation, was introduced into the Labour Force Survey. In introducing this change the ABS revised unit record data from April 2001 to April 2007 based on the new estimation method. While estimates for periods prior to April 2001 are unrevised and were compiled using a different estimation method, no trend break was identified in the employed persons series. Also, no change was identified in the trend breaks in the unemployed persons and unemployment rate series which arose with the introduction of a redesigned survey form in April 2001. For further details, see [Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 6292.0).

**34** The sample size of the Labour Force Survey for July 2008 was reduced by 24% when compared with the June 2008 sample. Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in [Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 \(Second edition\)](#) (cat. no. 6269.0), which was released on 25 July 2008.

**35** The reduced sample will still be representative, with selections made across all parts of Australia. However, there will be increased volatility in the estimates, particularly the original and seasonally adjusted estimates. Therefore, the ABS continues to encourage users to focus on trend estimates.

## **Population benchmarks**

**36** Labour Force Survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to add up to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are projections of the most recently released quarterly Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. For information on the methodology used to produce the ERP see [Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly](#) (cat. no. 3101.0). To create the population benchmarks for the Labour Force Survey, the most recently released quarterly ERP estimates are projected forward one quarter past the period for which they are required. The projection is based on the historical pattern of each population component - births, deaths, interstate migration and overseas migration. By projecting one quarter past that needed for the current population benchmarks, demographic changes are smoothed in, thereby making them less noticeable in the population benchmarks.

**37** The ERP series are revised annually in the March quarter issue of [Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly](#) (cat. no. 3101.0), released in September each year, to incorporate more up to date information available for the population components. The revised ERP estimates are used to update the quarterly population projections used in creating the Labour Force Survey population benchmarks. Benchmarks already used in producing the Labour Force Survey estimates are not updated. A process of smoothing is used in the creation of population benchmarks to reduce the effect of these annual revisions to ERP estimates on the Labour Force Survey population benchmarks.

**38** Every five years the ERP series are revised to incorporate additional information available from the latest Census of Population and Housing. Following the incorporation of Census information, the ERP series prior to the latest Census are final and subject to no further revision. Labour Force Survey population benchmarks, and the estimates, are revised following this 5-yearly revision in the ERP. From the February 2004 issue of this publication, labour force estimates have been compiled using population benchmarks based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Revisions were made in that issue to historical labour force estimates from January 1999 to January 2004.

## **Estimation method**

**39** The estimation method used in the Labour Force Survey is Composite Estimation, which was introduced in May 2007. Composite Estimation combines data collected in the previous six months with current month's data to produce the current month's estimates, thereby exploiting the high correlation between overlapping samples across months in the Labour Force Survey. The Composite Estimator combines the previous and current months' data by applying different factors according to length of time in the survey. After these factors are applied, the seven months of data are weighted to align with current month population benchmarks. For details see [Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 6292.0).

## **Families series**

**40** The families estimates use family relationship information collected as part of the LFS. The survey questions used to determine family relationships are restricted to persons enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings. That is, the following persons are excluded from the family estimates:

- all persons enumerated in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions)
- persons enumerated as visitors to (rather than usual residents of) private dwellings.

**41** Family relationship information is determined for persons enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings that are in scope of LFS. This information is also determined for some additional persons who are enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings and are:

- aged less than 15 years
- out of scope of the LFS (i.e. persons who are permanent members of the Australian defence forces)

- away from their usual residence for more than six weeks
- for whom there was not a fully completed LFS questionnaire (but sufficient family relationship information was collected).

#### **Further information and data on the LFS**

**42** LFS estimates are published monthly in **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0). A series of time series spreadsheets are released at the same time as this publication under cat. no. 6202.0.55.001. More detailed estimates are released, in electronic format, one week later, under cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 for monthly data, or cat. no. 6291.0.55.003 for quarterly data. All electronic data can be accessed via the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>. Additional data are available on request.

**43** For further information about the range of LFS products and services, and the concepts and methodology used in the LFS, refer to **Information Paper: Changes to Labour Force Survey Products** (cat. no. 6297.0) and **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

#### **INTERNATIONAL DATA**

**44** Table 1.8 contains data from the International Labour Organisation.

**45** Estimates of key indicators of the labour markets from various countries have been included for comparison with Australian estimates of labour force participation, employment, unemployment and unemployment rates.

#### **EMPLOYER SURVEY DATA**

**46** Tables 2.11, 5.1-5.3, 6.1-6.2 and 7.1 of this publication contain data from ABS employer surveys.

##### **Scope of employer surveys**

**47** Except where otherwise noted, the sample for ABS labour employer surveys is selected from the ABS Business Register, which is primarily based on registrations to the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Pay As You Go Withholding scheme. The population is updated quarterly to take account of new businesses, businesses that have ceased employing, changes in employment levels, changes in industry, and other general business changes. Businesses excluded from the scope of the employer surveys are:

- those primarily engaged in Agriculture, forestry and fishing (except for the Survey of Employment and Earnings)
- private households employing staff
- overseas embassies, consulates, etc.
- those located outside Australia.

#### **PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES DATA**

##### **Description of the survey**

**48** Table 2.11 contains employment data from the Survey of Employment and Earnings - Public Sector (SEE).

**49** The Survey of Employment and Earnings was conducted on a quarterly basis from the September quarter 1983. The June quarter 2007 issue of the publication **Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia** (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001) was the final issue. The quarterly survey has been replaced with an annual survey commencing with the 2007-08 reference year and data are expected to be released in January 2009. The survey measures both the number of public sector wage and salary earners employed at the last pay period of the financial year and their total earnings.

##### **Reference period**

**50** The reference period for employment is the last pay period of the financial year.

##### **Notes on data**

**51** The private sector component of the Survey of Employment and Earnings was discontinued after the December quarter 2001.

**52** The privatisation of Telstra Corporation in November 2006 significantly impacted the public sector employment series. Telstra Corporation was effectively privatised on 20 November 2006. For the purpose of ABS statistics this change from public sector to private sector is effective from March quarter 2007. For more information please see **Information Paper: Future Treatment of Telstra in ABS Statistics, 2007** (cat. no. 8102.0).

**53** As a result of privatisation, Telstra Corporation was no longer in the scope of SEE, and Telstra data were excluded from the series from March quarter 2007. As a result, a trend break was applied to the Commonwealth government and total public sector employees series between November 2006 and February 2007.

#### **Further information**

**54** For further information about data relating to public sector employees, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia** (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001), and **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## **WAGE PRICE INDEX DATA**

**55** Table 5.1 contains data from the [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0) publication.

### **Description of the survey**

**56** The Labour Price Index (LPI) measures change in the price of labour in the Australian labour market, unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed, i.e. it is unaffected by changes in the composition of the labour force, hours worked, or changes in characteristics of employees (e.g. work performance). In the LPI, index numbers are compiled for a range of wage and non-wage costs. Information about the wage price indexes has been released for each quarter since September 1997. Approximately 20,000 matched jobs from 4,800 businesses are priced each quarter.

### **Reference period**

**57** The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the mid-month of the quarter.

### **Further information**

**58** For further information about the range of products and services relating to the Wage Price Index, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website and [Labour Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6351.0.55.001).

## **AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS DATA**

**59** Table 5.2 contains data from the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings (AWE).

### **Description of the survey**

**60** The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings has been conducted quarterly since August 1981. Approximately 5,500 businesses contribute to the survey each quarter. The purpose of the survey is to measure average gross weekly earnings of employee jobs in Australia.

**61** Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

### **Reference period**

**62** The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. For non-weekly payrolls, businesses are asked to provide one week's portion.

### **Notes on data**

**63** The privatisation of Telstra Corporation in November 2006 has significantly impacted on the private sector and public sector average weekly earnings series. Telstra Corporation was effectively privatised on 20 November 2006. For the purposes of ABS statistics this change from public sector to private sector is effective from March quarter 2007. The effect of this change is significant for both the private sector and public sector series. As a result, a trend break has been applied to both series between November 2006 and February 2007. For more information please see [Information Paper: Future Treatment of Telstra in ABS Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 8102.0).

### **Further information**

**64** For further information about average weekly earnings statistics and the concepts and methodology used refer to [Average Weekly Earnings, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6302.0), and [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## **NATIONAL ACCOUNTS DATA**

**65** Table 5.3 contains data from the Australian National Accounts.

**66** Estimates of compensation of employees are contained within the Income Accounts of the Australian National Accounts, which are published in [Australian System of National Accounts](#) (cat. no. 5204.0) and [Australian Economic Indicators](#) (cat. no. 1350.0). For further information on how estimates are obtained, see [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0).

## **INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES DATA**

**67** Tables 6.1 and 6.2 contain data from the Industrial Disputes collection.

### **Description of the survey**

**68** The ABS has been collecting information about industrial disputes since 1913. The Industrial Disputes collection produces estimates of the number of industrial disputes (where ten or more working days are lost), employees involved, and working days lost.

**69** The scope of the Industrial Disputes collection is restricted to employing businesses at which an industrial dispute has occurred. For this collection, industrial disputes are defined as work stoppages of ten working days or more. Ten working days are equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of the stoppage, e.g. 3,000 workers on strike for two hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an eight-hour day).

**70** Effects on other establishments not directly involved in the dispute, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included in the scope of this collection.

#### **Reference period**

**71** The collection reference period is the calendar quarter.

#### **Further information**

**72** For further information about industrial disputes statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to the electronic publication [Industrial Disputes, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001), and [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

### **JOB VACANCIES DATA**

**73** Table 7.1 contains data from the Job Vacancies Survey (JVS).

#### **Description of the survey**

**74** The Job Vacancies Survey has been conducted since November 1983 and is a quarterly sample survey of approximately 5,000 employers. The survey produces estimates of the number of job vacancies in Australia. The May 2008 issue of the publication [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6354.0), released in June 2008, was the final issue for 2008. The Job Vacancies Survey will not be conducted during 2008-09 and may be reinstated in 2009-10.

#### **Reference date**

**75** The reference date for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter.

#### **Notes on data**

**76** Prior to the August quarter 1999, job vacancies statistics were collected as part of the Job Vacancies and Overtime Survey. The overtime component of the survey ceased following the May quarter 1999.

**77** The privatisation of Telstra Corporation in November 2006 impacted the private sector and public sector job vacancies series. For the purposes of ABS statistics this change from public sector to private sector was effective from March quarter 2007. For more information please see [Information Paper: Future Treatment of Telstra in ABS Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 8102.0).

**78** Although the privatisation of Telstra Corporation in November 2006 impacted on both the private and public sector series, the effect was significant only for the public sector series. As a result, a trend break was applied to the public sector series between November 2006 and February 2007.

#### **Further information**

**79** For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS job vacancies statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6354.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website and [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## **Glossary**

### **GLOSSARY**

#### **Active steps to find work**

Includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering an advertisement for a job; checking factory noticeboards or the touchscreens at Centrelink offices; being registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

#### **Actual hours worked**

The hours actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

#### **Adult employees**

Adult employees are those employees 21 years of age or over and those employees who, although under 21 years of age, are paid at the full adult rate for their occupation.

#### **Aggregate (actual) hours worked**

The total number of hours a group of employed persons has actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

#### **Attending full-time education**

Persons aged 15-24 years who were enrolled full-time at secondary school, high school, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

#### **Average compensation per employee**

**National Accounts.** The total compensation of employees divided by the number of employees.

#### **Average earnings (National Accounts basis)**

See **average compensation per employee**.

#### **Average hours worked**

Aggregate hours worked by a group divided by the number of persons in that group.

#### **Average weekly earnings**

Average weekly earnings represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Notes.

#### **Civilian population aged 15 years and over**

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

#### **Commonwealth government employees**

Employees of all departments, agencies and authorities created by or reporting to the Commonwealth Parliament. Those bodies run jointly by the Commonwealth Government and state governments are classified to Commonwealth.

#### **Compensation of employees**

**National Accounts.** The total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by enterprises to employees in return for work done by the employees during the accounting period. Compensation of employees comprises wages and salaries (in cash and in kind) and **employers' social contributions**. Compensation of employees is not payable in respect of unpaid work undertaken voluntarily, including the work done by members of a household within an unincorporated enterprise owned by the same household. Compensation of employees excludes any taxes payable by the employer on the wage and salary bill (e.g. payroll tax, fringe benefits tax). See [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

#### **Contributing family worker**

A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

#### **Country of birth**

Classified according to the [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(SACC\)](#) (cat. no. 1269.0).

#### **Couple families**

A family based on two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage and who are usually resident in the same household.

#### **Dependants**

All family members under 15 years, and all children aged 15-24 years attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).

#### **Dependent child**

Any child in a family under 15 years of age or aged 15-24 years who is attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).

#### **Dependent student**

A child who is 15-24 years of age, who is attending full-time education, and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household.

#### **Discouraged jobseekers**

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered to be too young by employers
- considered to be too old by employers
- lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background

- no jobs in their locality or line of work
- no jobs available at all.

#### **Duration of unemployment**

Under the redesigned LFS questionnaire, implemented in April 2001, the definition of duration of unemployment is the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Prior to April 2001, duration of unemployment was defined in the LFS as the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked full-time for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

#### **Employed**

Employed persons include all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
  - on strike or locked out; or
  - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

#### **Employed full-time**

See **full-time employed**.

#### **Employed part-time**

See **part-time employed**.

#### **Employee**

**Labour Force Survey and other household surveys.** A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

**Employer surveys.** Employees are wage and salary earners who received pay for any part of the reference period. For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Notes.

#### **Employee job**

**Wage Price Index (WPI).** A job for which the occupant receives remuneration in wages, salary, payment in kind, or piece rates. All employee jobs in all employing organisations (except those excluded from all ABS labour employer surveys) are in scope of the WPI, except the following:

- 'non-maintainable' jobs (i.e. jobs that are expected to be occupied for less than six months of a year)
- jobs for which wages and salaries are not determined by the Australian labour market (e.g. working proprietors of small incorporated enterprises, most employees of Community Development Employment Programs, jobs where the remuneration is set in a foreign country).

For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Notes.

#### **Employer**

**Labour Force Survey and other household surveys.** A person who operates their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

**Employer surveys.** A business with one or more employees.

#### **Employers' social contributions**

**National Accounts.** Contributions by employers to pension and superannuation funds; and premiums paid by employers to workers' compensation schemes for occupational injuries and diseases.

#### **Extended labour force underutilisation rate**

The unemployed, plus the underemployed, plus two groups of marginally attached to the labour force:

- (i) persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks and
- (ii) discouraged jobseekers

as a percentage of the labour force augmented by (i) and (ii).

## **Family**

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

## **Family reference person**

In families which are not couple families or one-parent families, as defined, the family reference person is the eldest person in the household.

## **Former workers**

Unemployed persons who have previously worked for two weeks or more but not in the last two years.

## **Full-time educational attendance**

Persons aged 15-19 who, during the reference week were enrolled full-time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15-24 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other tertiary educational institution.

## **Full-time employed**

**Household surveys.** Persons employed full-time are those employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

## **Full-time employees**

**Employer surveys.** Full-time employees are permanent, fixed term and casual employees who normally work the agreed or award hours for a full-time employee in their occupation and received pay for any part of the reference period. If agreed or award hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they ordinarily work 35 hours or more per week.

## **Gross domestic product (GDP)**

**National Accounts.** The total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is at 'market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. See [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

## **Gross mixed income (GMI)**

**National Accounts.** The owners of unincorporated enterprises, or other members of their households, may work without receiving any wage or salary. Mixed income includes both **gross operating surplus** for the unincorporated enterprises and returns for the proprietors' own labour (akin to wages and salaries). See [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

## **Gross operating surplus (GOS)**

**National Accounts.** The amount of gross output remaining after subtracting costs incurred in producing that output, but before any deductions for consumption of fixed capital. See [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

## **Household**

A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at different times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but no meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of families and non-family members.

## **Industrial dispute**

An industrial dispute is defined as a state of disagreement over an issue or group of issues between an employer and its employees, which results in employees ceasing work. Industrial disputes comprise strikes, which are a withdrawal from work by a group of employees; and lockouts, which are a refusal by an employer or group of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work.

## **Industry**

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods and services. Industry is classified according to the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\), 1993](#) (cat. no. 1292.0). The industry assigned to an employed person is the industry of the organisation in which the person's main job is located. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the industry of their most recent job.

## **Job leavers**

Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and **left that job voluntarily** - that is, because (for example): of unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours; the job was a holiday job or they left the job to return to studies; or their last job was running their own business and they closed down or sold that business for reasons other than financial difficulties.

## **Job losers**

Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and **left that job involuntarily**: that is, they were laid off

or retrenched from that job; left that job because of their own ill-health or injury; the job was seasonal or temporary; or their last job was running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties.

### **Job vacancy**

A job vacancy is an employee job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action has been taken. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Excluded are vacancies:

- for jobs which became vacant on the survey date and were filled that same day
- for jobs of less than one day's duration
- to be filled by persons already hired, or by promotion or transfer of existing employees
- to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial dispute(s)
- not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date
- for work to be carried out by contractors
- for which no recruitment action has been taken
- where a person has been appointed but has not yet commenced duty
- to be filled by staff from contract labour agencies
- for jobs available only to persons already employed by the enterprise or organisation.

For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Notes.

### **Labour force**

The labour force is the labour supply available for the production of economic goods and services in a given period, and is the most widely used measure of the economically active population. Persons in the labour force are classified as either employed or unemployed according to their activities during the reference period by using a specific set of priority rules.

#### **Labour force status**

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

#### **Labour force underutilisation rate**

The unemployed plus the underemployed, as a percentage of the labour force.

#### **Local government employees**

Employees of municipalities and shires and other local authorities created by or subject to the provisions of local government legislation, such as county councils in New South Wales.

#### **Lone parent**

A person who has no spouse or partner present in the household but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one dependent or non-dependent child usually resident in the household.

#### **Lone person**

A person who makes provision for their food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household. They may live in a dwelling on their own or share a dwelling with another individual or family.

#### **Long-term unemployed**

Persons unemployed for 12 months or more. See **duration of unemployment** for details of the calculation of duration of unemployment.

#### **Long-term unemployment rate**

The number of long-term unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

#### **Marginal attachment to the labour force**

Persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work, and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if child care was available.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

#### **Marital status**

See **social marital status**.

#### **Mean age**

The sum of the ages of all the persons in a group, divided by the total number of persons in that group.

#### **Mean duration of unemployment**

The sum of the duration of unemployment of all the unemployed persons in a group, divided by the total number of unemployed persons in that group.

#### **Median age**

The age which divides a group of persons into two equal groups: one comprising persons whose age is above the median; and the other, persons whose age is below it.

#### **Median duration of unemployment**

The duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups: one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median; and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

#### **Non-dependent child**

A child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged over 15 years and who is not a dependent student aged 15-24 years, and who has no partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

#### **Non-family member**

A person who is not related to any other member of the household in which they are living.

#### **Not in the labour force**

Persons who were not classified as employed or unemployed.

#### **Occupation**

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their main tasks to be grouped together for the purposes of classification. Occupation is classified according to the [ASCO Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition](#) (cat. no. 1220.0). The occupation assigned to an employed person relates to the person's main job. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the occupation of their most recent job.

#### **One-parent family**

A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household.

#### **Ordinary time earnings**

See [weekly ordinary time earnings](#).

#### **Original series**

Estimates produced directly from the survey data, before seasonal adjustment or trend estimation takes place.

#### **Other family**

Related individuals residing in the same household who do not form a couple or parent-child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one parent family in the household. If two brothers, for example, are living together and neither is a spouse, a lone parent or a child, then they are classified as other family.

#### **Overtime earnings**

See [weekly overtime earnings](#).

#### **Own account workers**

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engaged independently in a profession or trade, and hired no employees.

#### **Owner managers of incorporated enterprises**

People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are classified as employees under 'status in employment'. Technically they are employees, however, they are similar in characteristics to owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

#### **Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises**

People who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession. These people are classified as employers under 'status in employment' if their business has employees, or own account workers if they do not.

#### **Participation rate**

The labour force participation rate for any group within the population is the labour force component of that group, expressed as a percentage of the population in that group.

## **Part-time employed**

**Household surveys.** Persons employed part-time are those employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

## **Reason for leaving last job**

Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the past two years classified by whether they left that job voluntarily, that is, job leavers; or left that job involuntarily, that is, job losers.

## **Seasonally adjusted series**

A time series of estimates with the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation removed. See paragraphs 7-13 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

## **Social marital status**

Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married.

## **State capital cities**

The areas determining the six state capital cities are the Statistical Divisions for those capital cities defined in the [Statistical Geography: Volume 1 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification \(ASGC\)](#) (cat. no. 1216.0).

## **State government employees**

Employees of all State government departments and authorities created by, or reporting to, State Parliaments, including organisations for which the Commonwealth has assumed financial responsibility. Following self-government, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory administrations have been classified to State Governments. Employees of State Governments employed interstate are included in the estimates of the State in which they are based.

## **Status in employment**

Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

## **Total earnings**

See [weekly total earnings](#).

## **Total hourly rates of pay index excluding bonuses**

**Wage Price Index.** This index measures quarterly change in a weighted combination of ordinary time and overtime hourly rates of pay. See [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0) for more information.

## **Trend series**

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. See paragraphs 7-13 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

## **Underemployed workers**

Underemployed workers are employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

## **Underemployment rate**

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

## **Unemployed**

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

## **Unemployed looking for first full-time job**

Unemployed persons looking for full-time work who had never worked full-time for two weeks or more.

## **Unemployed looking for first job**

Unemployed persons who had never worked for two weeks or more.

#### **Unemployed looking for full-time work**

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work, or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

#### **Unemployed looking for part-time work**

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only, or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

#### **Unemployment rate**

The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

#### **Unemployment to population ratio**

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

#### **Usual hours worked**

The hours usually worked per week by an employed person.

#### **Wage and salary earners**

See **employee**.

#### **Weekly ordinary time earnings**

Weekly ordinary time earnings refers to one week's earnings of employees for the reference period attributable to award, standard or agreed hours of work, calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation, board and lodging) have been made. Included are piecework payments and one week's portion of regular production and task bonuses and commissions. Excluded are overtime payments and payments not related to the reference period, e.g. bonus payments for earlier periods of work.

#### **Weekly overtime earnings**

Weekly overtime earnings refers to payment for hours worked in the reference week in excess of award, standard or agreed hours of work, calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation) have been made.

#### **Weekly total earnings**

Weekly total earnings of employees is equal to weekly ordinary time earnings plus weekly overtime earnings.

#### **Working days lost**

Refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute.

#### **Working days lost per thousand employees**

Calculated for a quarterly period by dividing the total number of working days lost in the period by the total number of employees in the Australian labour force in the period (obtained from the ABS Labour Force Survey) and multiplying by 1,000.

## **Abbreviations**

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this publication:

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWE	average weekly earnings
EEH	Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours
ERP	estimated resident population
GDP	gross domestic product
ID	industrial disputes
ILO	International Labour Organization
JVS	Job Vacancies Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey

LPI	labour price index
MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
qtr	quarter
RSE	relative standard error
SEE	Survey of Employment and Earnings
WPI	wage price index

## Data sources for tables (Appendix)

### APPENDIX 1 DATA SOURCES FOR TABLES

#### HOW TO FIND DATA SOURCES

All ABS statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

To find a labour market related publication, spreadsheet or datacube on the ABS website, go to <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Statistics - By Catalogue Number - 6. Labour Statistics and Prices]. All products can be accessed by catalogue number and subject e.g. to find the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), look under '62. Labour force'. Select '6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia' and from the Summary tab select the Details tab.

No.	Table description	Data source	Notes
1.1	Labour force status: trend series	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) 6202.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	
1.2	Age by marital status	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	
1.3	States and territories	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) 6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2	Excludes Capital city/balance of state
1.4	Educational attendance	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3a	More detailed Age
1.5	Country of birth	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM5 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM6 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7	Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth Includes Sex, Age, State, less detailed Country of birth Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth
	Year of arrival	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM5 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM6 6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7	Includes Sex, State Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth
1.6	Relationship in household	6291.0.55.001 data cube FM1 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM2 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM3 6291.0.55.001 data cube FM4	Includes State Includes Age Includes Hours worked Unemployed persons only, includes Duration of unemployment
1.7	Families	6224.0.55.001 data cube FA2	
1.8	International comparisons	International Labour Organisation, LABORSTA database: <a href="http://laborsta.ilo.org">http://laborsta.ilo.org</a>	
2.1	Industry: trend	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Employed full-time, Employed part-time
2.2	Industry: divisions and subdivisions	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 6	
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E03 6291.0.55.003 data cube E05 6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes Sex, State, Hours worked, less detailed Industry
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E07	Includes Sex, Age, Status in employment, Hours worked
2.3	Occupation	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 7 6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12 6291.0.55.003 data cube E07 6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes Sex, State, Status in employment, Hours worked, more detailed Industry Less detailed Occupation
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E09	Includes Hours worked, less detailed Occupation
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E04 6291.0.55.003 data cube E05 6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes Age, Hours worked, Status in employment
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E07 6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes State, Status in employment, more detailed Occupation
2.4	Industry and occupation by full-time/part-time status	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09	Includes State, Hours worked
2.5	Industry by status in employment	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04 6291.0.55.003 data cube E05 6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes Sex, State, excludes Industry
	Occupation by status in employment	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04 6291.0.55.003 data cube E07	Includes Sex, Age, more detailed Industry
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E05 6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes Sex, State, more detailed Industry
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E07 6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes Sex, State, excludes Occupation
	Hours worked in all jobs by status in employment	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 8 6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 13 6291.0.55.003 data cube E04 6291.0.55.003 data cube E05 6291.0.55.003 data cube E06 6291.0.55.003 data cube E07 6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes Sex, Age, more detailed Occupation
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E07 6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes Sex, State, more detailed Occupation
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E09	Excludes Hours worked, includes Sex, Employed full-time, Employed part-time
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E04 6291.0.55.003 data cube E05 6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes Sex, Age, more detailed Occupation
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E07 6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes Sex, Age, Occupation
2.6	Average hours worked in all jobs by Industry	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11 6291.0.55.003 data cube E03 6291.0.55.003 data cube E05	Includes Sex, State, Occupation
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E03 6291.0.55.003 data cube E05	Includes Age, Status in employment, more detailed Industry

	6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes State, Status in employment, more detailed Industry
Average hours worked in all jobs by occupation	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09	Includes State, Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12	
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07	Includes Age, Status in employment, more detailed Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes State, Status in employment, more detailed Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09	Includes State, Industry
2.7 Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9	Includes Industry
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11	Includes Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12	Includes Status in employment
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 13	Includes Age, State
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1	Includes State, Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E03	Includes State, Status in employment
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04	
2.8 Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9	Includes Industry
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11	Includes Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12	Includes Status in employment
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 13	Includes Age, State
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1	Includes State, Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E03	Includes State, Status in employment
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04	
Usual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 10	Includes Industry
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM3	Includes Occupation
	6291.0.55.001 data cube E10	Includes Status in employment
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM2	Includes Age, State
2.9 Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 data cube E02	Includes State, Industry
2.10 Future employment expectations by job tenure	Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001)	Includes Age, State, Hours worked
2.11 Public sector employees	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	Excludes Future employment expectations, Includes Job tenure, State, Age
Public sector employees: Australia totals	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2	
Public sector employees by level of government: trend	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3	Includes State
	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Commonwealth government, State, seasonally adjusted and original data
Public sector employees by State: trend	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	Includes State government, State, seasonally adjusted and original data
	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2	Includes Local government, State, seasonally adjusted and original data
	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3	Includes seasonally adjusted and original data
	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Commonwealth government, seasonally adjusted and original data
	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7a	Includes State government, seasonally adjusted and original data
Public sector employees by industry: original	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7a	Includes Local government, seasonally adjusted and original data
Unemployed persons: duration of unemployment by age	6248.0.55.001 data cube UM2	Includes Industry
3.1 Long-term unemployed	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3	Includes State
	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 14B	Excludes Age, median Duration of unemployment
	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2	Excludes median Duration of unemployment
	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3	
3.3 Unemployed persons: reason for unemployment by industry of last job	6291.0.55.003 data cube UQ1	Excludes trend data, includes State, more detailed Duration of unemployment
Unemployed persons: reason for unemployment by occupation of last job	6291.0.55.003 data cube UQ2	Excludes trend data, includes State, Age
	6291.0.55.003 data cube UQ1	Excludes Industry of last job
	6291.0.55.003 data cube UQ3	Excludes Reason for unemployment
4.1 Underutilised labour: trend series	Labour Force Survey	Excludes Occupation of last job
4.2 Underutilised labour: seasonally adjusted series	Labour Force Survey	Excludes Reason for unemployment
4.3 Underutilised labour by age	Labour Force Survey	Data available on request
4.4 Underutilised labour by states and territories	Labour Force Survey	Data available on request
4.5 Underemployed by industry and occupation	Labour Force Survey	Data available on request
4.6 Persons not in the labour force	6291.0.55.001 data cube NM1	Data available on request
5.1 Labour price index	Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)	Data available on request
Labour price index: trend data	6345.0 spreadsheet table 1	Data available on request
Labour price index: Australia, states and territories	6345.0 spreadsheet table 2b	Data available on request
Labour price index: private sector	6345.0 spreadsheet table 3b	Includes States and territories
Labour price index: public sector	6345.0 spreadsheet table 4b	Includes States and territories
Labour price index: industry	6345.0 spreadsheet table 5b	Includes Sector
Labour price index: occupation	6345.0 spreadsheet table 7b	Includes Sector
5.2 Average weekly earnings	Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)	
Average weekly earnings by sex	6302.0 spreadsheet table 1	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
Average weekly earnings: private sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
Average weekly earnings: public sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 7	Includes Full-time adult total earnings
5.3 Compensation of employees	Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)	

6.1	Industrial disputes: working days lost	Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)
	Industrial disputes: working days lost by state	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3a
	Industrial disputes: working days lost by industry	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2a
6.2	Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees	Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)
	Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees by state	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3b
	Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees by industry	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2b
7.1	Job vacancies	Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0)
	Job vacancies: Australia, states and territories	6354.0 spreadsheet table 1

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## List of Articles (Appendix)

### APPENDIX 2 LIST OF ARTICLES

#### October 2008

[Interstate commuters: An analysis of 2006 Census data](#)

[Measures of casual employment](#)

#### July 2008

[Quarterly labour force underutilisation rate](#)

[Technical report: Underenumeration in the Labour Force Survey: Findings of a Census data enhancement study](#)

[Spotlight: Employment type](#)

[Spotlight: Maternity leave](#)

[Spotlight: Underemployed workers](#)

[Spotlight: Volume measures of labour underutilisation](#)

#### January 2008

[Spotlight: First job starters](#)

[Technical report: Jurisdictional coverage of pay-setting arrangements](#)

#### October 2007

[Spotlight: Available labour of the unemployed](#)

[Technical report: Census and the Labour Force Survey](#)

#### July 2007

[Spotlight: Employment type](#)

#### April 2007

[Spotlight: Methods of setting pay](#)

[Spotlight: Updated volume measures of labour underutilisation](#)

#### January 2007

[Technical Report: ABS measures of employee remuneration](#)

#### October 2006

[Changes in where people work over time](#)

#### July 2006

[Job search experience of unemployed people](#)

[Labour force transitions](#)

[Spotlight: Employment type](#)

**April 2006**

Spotlight: Updated volume measures of labour underutilisation

**January 2006**

Labour outcomes of migrants

The relationship between GDP and employment

Spotlight: Long-term unemployment

**October 2005**

Job starters

Comparison of ABS measures of employee remuneration

Spotlight: Employment type

Technical report: Standard error models for the Labour Force Survey

Technical report: Proposals from the review of ABS working arrangements statistics

**July 2005**

Full-time and part-time participation in Australia: a cohort analysis

Population, participation and productivity: contributions to Australia's economic growth

Spotlight: Employee share schemes

Technical report: Changes to coding processes for industry and occupation in the Labour Force Survey

**April 2005**

People who work few hours

Health, disability, age and labour force participation

Spotlight: Methods of setting pay

Spotlight: Annual measures of labour underutilisation

**January 2005**

Labour force participation in Australia

Experimental estimates of the average age at withdrawal from the labour force

Spotlight: Employment in information and communication technology (ICT)

Spotlight: Labour Price Index

Technical report: Implementation of computer assisted interviewing in the Labour Force Survey

**October 2004**

Changes in types of employment

Mature age people and the labour force

**July 2004**

Children living without an employed parent

Labour underutilisation

Spotlight: Industrial disputes

Technical report: Labour Force Survey regions

**April 2004**

Job search experience: methods and barriers in finding jobs

Trade union membership

Spotlight: Occupation

Technical report: Improvements to Labour Force estimates

**January 2004**

[Employment in information and communication technology](#)

[Labour force participation: international comparison](#)

[Technical report: Changes to Labour Force Survey seasonal adjustment processes](#)

**October 2003**

[Labour market transitions of teenagers](#)

[Spotlight: Country of birth](#)

[Spotlight: Multiple job holders](#)

[Technical report: New Labour Force Survey sample selections: analysis of the effort on estimates](#)

**July 2003**

[Experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation](#)

[Unemployment and participation rates in Australia: a cohort analysis](#)

[Spotlight: Population, participation and productivity: contributions to Australia's economic growth](#)

[Technical report: Measures of weekly hours worked](#)

**April 2003**

[Do job vacancies provide a leading indicator of employment growth?](#)

[Characteristics of underemployed workers](#)

[Spotlight: Parental leave](#)

[Spotlight: Methods of setting pay](#)

[Technical report: Labour Force Survey sample redesign](#)

**Note:** the following articles appeared in **Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6203.0)**.

**February 2003**

[Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates](#)

**December 2002**

[Volatility of labour force estimates](#)

**October 2002**

[Measures of labour underutilisation](#)

**February 2002**

[Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates](#)

**October 2001**

[Full-time and part-time employment](#)

**August 2001**

Experimental estimates: labour force characteristics of Indigenous Australians

**June 2001**

[Duration of unemployment: recent definitional changes](#)

**February 2001**

[Unemployment and supplementary measures of underutilised labour](#)

[Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates](#)

**May 2000**

[Status in employment data changes: correction](#)

**April 2000**

## Using the unemployment rate series to illustrate the seasonal adjustment process

### **February 2000**

Seasonal reanalysis of monthly labour force estimates

### **December 1999**

Why are there differences between two seasonally adjusted measures of Australian total employment?

### **November 1999**

Industry, occupation and status in employment data

Labour force status and other characteristics of families

### **October 1999**

Labour force projections: 1999-2016

### **April 1999**

Introduction of updated standard error estimates

### **February 1999**

Revisions to monthly labour force estimates

### **January 1999**

Concordance between the first and second editions of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) - revised

## **Related publications (Appendix)**

### **APPENDIX 3 RELATED PUBLICATIONS**

<b>Title</b>	<b>cat. no.</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
Labour force supplementary surveys			
Career Experience	6254.0	Discontinued	Nov 2002
Child Care	4402.0	Irregular	June 2005 reissue
Child Employment	6211.0	Irregular	Jun 2006
Education & Work	6227.0	Annual	May 2008
Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership	6310.0	Annual	Aug 2007
Forms of Employment	6359.0	Annual	Nov 2007
Job Search Experience	6222.0	Annual	Jul 2008
Labour Force Experience	6206.0	Biennial	Feb 2007
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Migrants	6250.0	Triennial	Nov 2007
Labour Mobility	6209.0	Biennial	Feb 2008
Locations of Work	6275.0	Irregular	Nov 2005
Multiple Jobholding(a)	6216.0	Discontinued	Aug 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force	6220.0	Annual	Sep 2007
Retrenchment & Redundancy(b)	6266.0	Discontinued	Jul 2001
Underemployed Workers	6265.0	Annual	Sep 2007
Working Time Arrangements	6342.0	Triennial	Nov 2006
Multi purpose household surveys			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation	6239.0	Biennial	Jul 2006 to Jun 2007
Retirement and Retirement Intentions(c)	6238.0	Biennial	Jul 2006 to Jun 2007
Work-Related Injuries(d)	6324.0	Irregular	2005-06
Sub-annual labour surveys			
Average Weekly Earnings	6302.0	Quarterly	Aug qtr 2008
Industrial Disputes	6321.0.55.001	Quarterly	Sep qtr 2008
Job Vacancies	6354.0	Suspended	May qtr 2008
Labour Force	6202.0	Monthly	Nov 2008
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	6224.0.55.001	Monthly	Nov 2008
Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6287.0	Annual	2007
Labour Price Index	6345.0	Quarterly	Sep qtr 2008
Wage & Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia	6248.0.55.001	Discontinued	Jun qtr 2007
Other labour surveys			
Employee Earnings & Hours	6306.0	Biennial	May 2006
Employer Training Expenditure & Practices	6362.0	Irregular	2001-02
Employment Arrangements, Retirement & Superannuation, Australia	6361.0	Irregular	Apr to Jul 2007
Labour Costs	6348.0.55.001	Irregular	2002-03
<b>Title</b>	<b>cat. no.</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Latest issue</b>
Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs)			
Australian's Employment and Unemployment Patterns, CURF, 1994-1997	6286.0.30.001	Discontinued	1994 to 1997
Australian's Employment and Unemployment Patterns, 1994-1997: Expanded CURF	6286.0.55.001	Irregular	1994 to 1997
Australian's Employment and Unemployment Patterns: Expanded CURF, Technical Paper	6286.0.55.002	Irregular	1994 to 1997
Child Care, Australia, Expanded CURF	4402.0.55.001	Irregular	Jun 2005
Child Care, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	4402.0.55.002	Irregular	Jun 2005
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia: Basic CURF	6202.0.30.001	Biennial	Aug 2006
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia - Basic CURF, Technical Paper	6202.0.30.002	Biennial	Aug 2006
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia: Expanded CURF	6202.0.30.003	Biennial	Aug 2006
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded CURF	6202.0.30.004	Irregular	Feb 2008
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6202.0.30.005	Irregular	Feb 2008
Microdata: Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Expanded CURF, Australia	6361.0.55.001	Irregular	Apr to Jul 2007

Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic CURF, Technical Manual	6278.0.55.001	Irregular	2005
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic CURF	6278.0.55.002	Irregular	2005
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6278.0.55.003	Irregular	2005
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF	6278.0.55.004	Irregular	2005
Survey of Income and Housing - Basic and Expanded CURFs, Technical Paper	6541.0	Irregular	2005-06
Information papers and other reference material			
ABS Labour Market Statistics	6106.0.55.001	Irregular	2003
Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources & Methods	5216.0	Irregular	2000
Changes to ABS Measures of Employee Remuneration	6313.0	Irregular	2006
Changes to Labour Force Survey Products	6297.0	Irregular	2003
Estimating Average Annual Hours Worked	1352.0.55.077	Irregular	Jun 2006
Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics	6292.0	Irregular	2007
Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6224.0.55.002	Irregular	2008
Labour Force Survey Sample Design	6269.0	Irregular	Nov 2007
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors	6298.0	Irregular	2005
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube, 2007	6298.0.55.001	Irregular	Sep 2008
Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6351.0.55.001	Irregular	2004
Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6102.0.55.001	Irregular	Apr 2007
Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey	6232.0	Irregular	2004
Other publications			
Australian Economic Indicators	1350.0	Monthly	January 2009
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure & Product	5206.0	Quarterly	Sep qtr 2008
Australian Social Trends	4102.0	Annual	2008
Australian System of National Accounts	5204.0	Annual	2007-08
Australians' Employment & Unemployment Patterns: First Results	6286.0	Discontinued	1994 to 1997
Business Indicators	5676.0	Quarterly	Sep 2008
Census of Population & Housing: Selected Education & Labour Force Characteristics	2017.0	Five yearly	2001
Education & Training Indicators	4230.0	Irregular	2002
General Social Survey	4159.0	Irregular	2006
Government Benefits, Taxes & Household Income	6537.0	Irregular	2003-04
Household Income & Income Distribution	6523.0	Biennial	2005-06
Measures of Australia's Progress	1370.0	Biennial	2006
Regional Wage & Salary Earners - Electronic Publication	5673.0.55.001	Irregular	2003-04
Superannuation: Coverage & Financial Characteristics	6360.0	Irregular	Jun 2000
Voluntary Work	4441.0	Irregular	2006

(a) Latest data available on request for July 2001.

(b) Related data available from Labour Mobility.

(c) Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey until 1997, data now collected as part of the Multi Purpose Household Survey.

(d) Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey in 2000, data now collected as part of the Multi Purpose Household Survey.

## List of Tables

### LIST OF TABLES

The tables listed below are included in the publication **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0). Electronic sources of the data in these tables can be found in **Appendix 1**.

#### THE LABOUR FORCE

- 1.1** Labour force status: trend series
- 1.2** Age by social marital status
- 1.3** States and territories, and capital cities
- 1.4** Educational attendance (aged 15-24)
- 1.5** Country of birth by year of arrival in Australia
- 1.6** Relationship in household
- 1.7** All families: family type by labour force status
- 1.8** International comparisons

#### EMPLOYED PERSONS

- 2.1** Industry: trend series
- 2.2** Industry division and subdivision
- 2.3** Occupation major groups and sub-major groups
- 2.4** Industry and occupation by full-time/part-time status
- 2.5** Industry and occupation by status in employment
- 2.6** Actual hours worked: industry and occupation
- 2.7** Actual hours worked
- 2.8** Actual and usual hours worked
- 2.9** Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours
- 2.10** Future employment expectations by job tenure
- 2.11** Public sector employees

#### UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

- 3.1** Duration of unemployment by age
- 3.2** Long-term unemployed persons: trend series
- 3.3** Reason for unemployment by industry and occupation of last job

#### QUARTERLY MEASURES OF LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION

- 4.1** Labour underutilisation: trend series
- 4.2** Labour underutilisation: seasonally adjusted series
- 4.3** Labour underutilisation by age
- 4.4** Underemployed persons: states and territories

- 4.5 Labour underutilisation: industry and occupation**
- 4.6 Persons not in the labour force: whether looking for work**

#### **EARNINGS/LABOUR COSTS**

- 5.1 Wage price index**
- 5.2 Average weekly earnings: trend series**
- 5.3 Compensation of employees and related measures: trend series**

#### **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

- 6.1 Industrial disputes: working days lost**
- 6.2 Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees**

#### **JOB VACANCIES**

- 7.1 Job vacancies**

## **Data Cubes Table 1.1.Measures of labour underutilisation (I-Note) - Data Cubes**

6105.0 Table 1.1: Measures of labour underutilisation is updated on an annual basis. It was last updated in the April 2008 issue of 6105.0.

## **Data Cubes Table 1.2. Experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation (I-Note) - Data Cubes**

6105.0 Table 1.2: Experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation is updated on an annual basis. It was last updated in the July 2008 issue of 6105.0.

## **Data Cubes Table 2. Employment type 1992–2007 (I-Note) - Data Cubes**

6105.0 Table 2. Employment type 1992–2007 is updated on an annual basis. It was last updated in the July 2008 issue of 6105.0.

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